PLAYING WITH
DISKS
Which disk drive?

1541

(AREA CON ...)

(love runner)

WIN A SET OF BOARD GAMES

Reviewed: Bards Tale II • Strike Fleet
Sherlock • Super Cat • Rim Runner

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

JULY ISSUE
AVAILABLE
3rd JUNE
1988

UTILITIES

DATA STATEMENTS

Bill Oddie Microont

To many people, computers and conversation lie at opposite ends of the ecological spectrum, but the two were brought together recently when Bill Oddie appeared on Microont's Celebrity ConLine.

'Prince Charles hit the nail on the head when he said conservationists need a more up-to-date image and events like this interview with Microont are an excellent example of how we are using today's technology to help preserve the environment,' said Oddie, Vice-President of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

The main purpose of Oddie's appearance was to promote the Trust's campaign to plant a million trees. The devastation of the South Face's trees in last October's gales formed the grim inspiration of the Trust's campaign and Oddie took advantage of the opportunity to spread the word.

Microont is also taking an interest in the campaign by running a competition offering ViewSystem prize with all proceeds going to the BTCV Emergency Tree Fund.

Anyone wishing to help can contact the BTCV at the address below, for details of their Emergency Tree Pack which gives advice on how to plant and care for trees in your area.

Touchline:
The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Tel: 0491 39766.

Clive Grace (A&B Computing), Geet Bags and Stuart Cooke (Your Commodore) at the Frightmare launch. Which one's Witch?

A rare sighting of the nesting display of the Uraddo pocidaes in the shade of a leaking Paxon tree.

Which Witch?

It takes a lot to shatter the calm composure of Fleet Street but Geet Bag's appearance at the unveiling of Cascade's Frightmare stopped traffic, frightened the horses and sent kids screaming home to Mum. Never had the Street of Shun beene witness to such a gruesome sight emerging from a London taxi. Yes, folks, the editor was attending another press luncheon!

This rain attempt to achieve a figer in his own loneliness overshadowed the attendance of the Witch of Pink Windmill (BBC TV) fame among the bike ensheaine at L'Osha Cheshire Cheese, one of Fleet Street's oldest and best known watering holes.

Frightmare is a game which takes you into the dark recesses of your own

subconscious and releases the phobias and phantoms that lurk there. The Commodore 64 cassette costs £9.95 and a disk version is available from £14.95.

Back at the launch, the proceedings were given an extra touch of class when the foliose created havoc by stuffing his beak from under the tweed nape of a roast chicken while saying, "How's this for a Real Hull impersonation?"

Geet Bags was highly voto-ed by this hot pug and his game was declared well and truly open.

Touchline:
Cascade Games: 1-3 Haywra Crescent, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5BG. Tel 0423 525325.

Falling Fortunes

No, Gremlin are not on the headline, but the programmers are being dropped from a great height and it's all for charity.

Seven of Gremlin's programmers are risking life and limb to raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Association by leaping from a plane over the Derbyshire countryside. Fortunately, they should all be wearing parachutes at the time.

Gremlin has supplied a list of names of the participants: Colin

'Fungus' Dooley, Mark Rogers, Paul Jackson, Rob Toone, Andy Green, Stuart Gregg and Jon Harrison. Managing Director of Gremlin, Ian Stewart, would love to take part I'm sure but he has an urgent chiropody appointment on that day, a bit of trouble with one I believe.

The Gremlin team would be delighted to receive sponsorship or donations which should be sent to Ian Quinn in Birmingham.

Touchline:
Gremlin Graphics: Unit 2/3 Holford Way, Holford, Birmingham B6 7AX. Tel: 021-356 3377.

Gate News

A trip to hospital has inspired a game by the Special FX team of Robert Toman and Andy Rixon. Gate is based inside the body of an alien and Rixon got the idea when he underwent exploratory barium meal which resulted in some stimulating pictures of his inner workings.

The game is a cross between the Fantastic Voyage and the Biblical tale of Jonah and the Whale. After being gobbled up by an alien, the player has to find a way out through the mouth again. The route out is riddled by mad glands and microbes and the aim is to bump off the aliens organs one by one before an escape can be affected.

The game is to be released by Ocean Software for £8.95 on cassette and £12.95 on disk.

Trackline:
Ocean Software: 6 Central Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Tel: 061-832 6633.

Your Amiga

Argos Specialist Publications are pleased to announce the launch of their new magazine — Your Amiga.

For several months the magazine has been incorporated as a separate part of Your Commodore but now the time has come to sever the umbilical cord and let it enjoy a life its own.

For Amiga owners the pages are filled with news, views, facts and programs galore. A full 72 pages which will help to unveil the hidden depths of the powerful Commodore machine.

Your Amiga will be available every second month so don't miss the first one out. It goes on sale May 28th — price £1.50.

Close but...

Red lines and apologies time to Byra and Flesta. The review of Helper 126 issued Corp magazine in the May issue studied the package to Financial Systems Software. True, they do supply Byra and Flesta and Byra were the actual company who supplied the package.

Byra and Flesta can be contacted at 37 Croft Street, Lytham, Lancashire FY8 5NN.

Sorry about that R&P!

Widening the Net

Telemap, the company behind Micronet, is projecting a more positive image for this year with the broadening of their gateway into new areas.

"Micronet is the most successful service of its kind in Europe but that's no reason to be complacent" explains John Tomany, managing director of the newly renamed Telemap Group. The restructuring has resulted in the creation of five distinct areas: Micronet, Interbusiness, Value Added Services, Open Access Data Services and Telephone.

Micronet is also receiving a general overhaul which includes the revamping of its daily news service for the home and small business market as well as computer specific magazines. The magazines are published weekly and each magazine has a different update day. For Commodore 64/128 users the press day is Wednesday and on Thursday for Amiga and Atari users.

The contents of each magazine are easily accessed from a single index page and back issues and selected articles will remain available for four weeks at a time.

Also included in the new system is a conferencing facility containing 30 separate topic areas. This not only offers a good information

MICRONET

A new look for Micronet

but conferences or discussions with up to sixty-three other users and comment via the system. Prestel users can always be converted in any of the other vacant rooms.

Telemap Group's Micronet is the latest information provider on the Prestel network, with a subscriber base of 20,000 people accessing 35,000 pages and a free demonstration can still be accessed by dialling (on 01-623 0525, entering the ID number 4444 4444 and the password 0000.

Trackline:
Telemap Group Ltd: Durrant House, 8 Herbal Hill, London EC1R 5EJ. Tel: 01-278 3030.

A Fair Cop

The Association of Chief Police Officers has decided to adopt the guidelines laid down by the Data Protection Registrar's Codes of Practice.

The cataloging of the Data Protection Act has posed new problems for the police force because of the delicate nature of the information they accumulate. Geoffrey Howe states, "There are a number of particularly welcome aspects of the Codes, for example... The detailed guidelines for security management, and monitoring and inspection are also welcome."

Obviously there are some records which would impair police operations but the Codes recommend that, where collecting personal information, the police should inform the person concerned as to the purposes for which such information will be, whenever possible. Copies of the police Codes of Practice are available from: Chief Superintendent, Communications Department, Merseyside Police, PO Box 59, Liverpool L69 1JD (or 66-68 (cheques payable to Merseyside Police).

Trueline:
Assistant Data Protection Registrar
Springfield House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AX. Tel 0532 535 534 636 0445

YER Bug Fix

Despite the undoubted quality of Precision Software's Script-Plus cartridge for the Plus4, some users have found that it refuses to load more than the first character of a document to an RS-232 printer. York Electronic Research have responded to plead for help by producing a replacement ROM chip to cure this fault.

In operation, the ROM only affects the Script-Plus RS-232 output and is totally invisible to all other software.

The ROM costs £9.99 and an RS-232 interface is available for £34.99, backed by YER's guaranteed, to get you working after sales service.

Trueline:
York Electronic Research, The Fishergate Centre, 4 Fishergate, York Y01 4AB. Tel 0904 610722.

Datasoft Deal

Stephen Hall of Grandslam Entertainments is a man turning a dream into reality. Since his acquisition of Datasoft at the end of last year, his determination to turn the company's fading fortunes into a success story seems to be bearing fruit. The five-cornered fight for the US rights to Grandslam's The Real Ghostbusters has led to a three year deal being arranged between US and Grandslam winners, Datasoft and Grandslam.

The reciprocal deal means that autumn will see Datasoft's follow up to Alternate Reality appearing over here under the auspices of Grandslam. The deal is a result of Datasoft's dissatisfaction at its arrangements with US Gold and its desire for a 'positive marketing operation' for its products over here.

Hall is determined to make Grandslam a major force in the British industry with its launch of the Packard conversion backing up Reit October with more titles lined up for later release.

Trueline:
Grandslam Entertainments: Enemy House, Leicester Place, London WC2H 7NR. Tel 439 0666.

Joystick Wizards

The Personal Computer Show in Earls Court will be the venue for the first National Computer Games Championship. Backed by US Gold, the organisers will be Newsfield Publications and the National Association of Boy's Clubs.

As publishers, Newsfield has always shown a passionate interest in the activities of Britain's youth and the first round will be conducted in heats at six regional Boy's Clubs centres around the UK, in both Spectrum and Commodore 64 formats.

London and Leeds will host the semi-finals in August, leading up to the finals during the three public days (16-18 September) at the Show itself.

Trueline:
MPA Limited: 8-10 Bullars Street, London W1N 1LF. Tel 01-636 1203.

Power House Sydney

The Power House has concluded a deal with the Sydney Development Corporation of Canada. Before the agreement was made the rights to Sydney's games were handled by US Gold so the new deal will bring gems such as RC's Quest for Tyres, Gregg's Revenge, Fight Night, Dambusters and Desert Fox into the budget price setting.

Sydney Opera House?

Some of these titles have appeared on Mastertronic's American label but from now on the power lies in the hands of the Power House.

This move establishes Power Housecentre's determination to release games of the highest possible quality and get away from their old image before the year's take over.

Trueline:
The Power House: Powerhouse Publishing Ltd, 204 Worple Road, London SW20 8PN. Tel 01-879 7366.

Games Update

Arkanoid II

Alot of new releases this month but unfortunately, only a few of the titles rise above mediocrity and even among these, there is precious little originality

Top title for addictiveness is undoubtedly ARKANOID REVENGE OF DOH from Imagine. Even if this Breakout clone does only offer a few new features, there is something about it that demands just one more go. Presentation could be better though. There is no excuse for not including a redefine keyboard option and a pause would have been more than useful.

Bargain of the month is again, easily decided. Gremlin's **COLOSSAL COMPILATION** offers ten games for just under a tenner. The titles are Auf Wiedersehen Monty, Thing Bounces Back, Bobsleabir, Jack the Nipper II, Mask,

Samurai Warrior

Rolling Thunder

Raul the Great Mouse Detective, Conroy, Death Wish III, Bulldog and the Samurai trilogy.

Real late-ups continue to provide a source of rich pickings for software houses wishing to make some money and who haven't seen many times before. SAMURAI WARRIOR from Firebird is yet another Japanese epic screen and you go around leading people to bits with your sword but you must also bow to them first. ROLLING THUNDER from US GOLD may be a conversion of one of the best known arcade games currently around, but it is so mouthblowingly much it becomes instantly forgettable. PREDATOR from Activision is a tie-in based on the film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger in which he tries to rescue some diplomats in the face of a strange alien threat.

It is interesting that most of the people who will buy this game will not worry about the game this line. There must be a teenage there somewhere.

On the more traditional shoot'em-up front come two from US GOLD namely SIDE ARMS is a one or two player game, blast the baddies and pick up capsules which give your ship extra powers. Where have we seen that before? A free truck tape may or may not persuade you to investigate. BEDLAM is a vertically scrolling game

Rollout?

and does actually have an original feature (shock horror!). However, the chances are that you will not be able to guess exactly what it is before you get bored. SPACE gun a transporter and end you soon kids and end you soon kids you've got a pinball game? Can't help but feel that it's been launched about six months too late.

Arcade adventures seem to be making something of a

Cybernoid

comeback. That superstar of the cartoon strip GARFIELD stars in his very own game, Big Fat Hairy Deal produced by The Edge. Action has been whisked off to the city pound and our operations are now preventing our character from getting through at once.

BLACK LAMP from Firebird is a good old mouse fat princess by collecting assorted lamps while simultaneously

Black Lamp

leaping around the various platforms, seeking help shot by the multitude of nasties you game. It looks very good but doesn't play quite so well. VAMPIRE'S EMPIRE from Hewson is set in Transylvania and I may have missed some of the subtleties as interactions were only provided in French and German. You have to manipulate a beam of light through the castle by strategically placing mirrors in the 140 rooms. Again, looks good, plays poorly.

FREIGHTMARE from Firebird is the third of those games all looking vaguely similar. You have two aims. One is to make up while representing the worst things you can manage. DEMON STALKERS from Electronic Arts is a Gauntlet clone that reached number one in the States. It plays acceptable. CYBERNOID from Hewson is pretty tricky in one player mode. I can't help but feel that it's been launched about six months too late.

MAGNETRON is Steve Turner's first game since joining Firebird from Hewson and it is very difficult to see the

Magnetron

difference as the resemblance to his old game Paradroid is uncanny. Grapple with droids to improve your weapons, etc, etc. Your external aim is to disassemble or shut down eight stations. TROLL from Dentos Designs certainly looks

original although closer examination shows it to be little more than a Q-Bert derivative. You bounce round rocks avoiding goblins while trying to collect bits of a crystal. There are holes to be jumped through (although some are death holes) leading to other chambers. What makes the game unusual is another set of holdings in the ceiling which you can spring up to and down from. Your ultimate success though is based purely on how well you can jump, just a spinning wheel of fortune, achieved by leaping up and down on short-lived mushrooms.

Very little on the adventure front this month. Apart from the Infocom game (see elsewhere in this issue), the only offering to come my way is WOLFMAN from Alligata. Wolfman is from the pen of Rod Pike who gave us Dracula and Frankenstein. The story involves your attempts to discover more about the mason your late have hairy every time there is a full moon. If you are lucky, you may even find you lose at the end of the road. This game is nowhere near as well-written as its predecessors and is further spoilt by a series of annoying bugs.

A more sophisticated simulation is STEALTH MISSION from Sub Logic where games are now going to be measured in this country here for the first time rather than having to import them. Their original flight simulator is still the Daddy of them all and it was rumoured that it was so accurate that if you could land it, you could land a light plane in an emergency. Here you get the chance to fly three different aircraft on a variety of missions — an F-19 Stealth Fighter, F-14 Tomcat and the X-29. As this latter aircraft is still only experimental, I can't vouch for the exact accuracy of the simulation but I don't expect too many people will be in a position to contradict.

A somewhat less hazardous mission is a quick release

Card Sharks

of cards, brought to you by Electronic Arts/Ascolade in CARD SHARKS. You have the option to play Hearts (better known as Black Maria in this country) pontoon or three kinds of poker. You can choose from six different opponents including Maggie, Ronnie or Gorby. The game is lots the excitement of the local smoke-filled club not one beat. The highlights are some of Ronnie comments and it told Nancy that I was at one of Olde Reekie when it was

For those who enjoy putting some thought into their gaming, SORCEROR LORD from PSS might be just what they are looking for. A traditional wargame but in a fantasy

setting where you can summon demons to your cause should you happen to be near a rune ring. The game is pretty crude graphically compared to some of the icon driven games currently available to some of the icon driven games currently available but it's tough to play as it's a long experienced and experienced supervised wargamers looking for something more.

Electro Dream's CHAMPIONSHIP SPRINT is the officially licensed version of the arcade game. A top down view of a racing track rather than the normal cockpit view is presented as you race around one of the eight tracks. Alternatively, you can design one of your own. The game comes with a complete range of parameters that you can

Championship Sprint

POWER at SEA from Electronic Arts is another naval simulation (see Strike Fleet elsewhere in this issue) recreating the battle of Leyte Gulf in the Second World War in which the Japanese forces launched one last major Kamikaze attack in an attempt to annihilate the American Navy. The emphasis with this simulation is very much towards arcade sequences so if you prefer manning anti-aircraft guns and launching torpedoes to plotting courses and watching screens full of numbers this should be for you.

Last but by no means least this month is Street Sports BASKETBALL from the US Gold team under. Choose your team from the local kids and battle it out on one of four different courts. The perspective of these street sports is that they include features not normally present in a professional game. When was the last time you saw one of the Harlem Globetrotters slip on an oil slick? This series aims to put the fun back into sports and succeeds admirably.

You may think that I have taken a somewhat jaundiced view of this month's offerings but I feel that the British Software Industry is turning out quality products. Probably more quality than our American counterparts we feel at the moment. At the same time something different though about the moment and makes something more enjoyable games that reach beyond the plug. It confines me to say it, the Americans are turning out bigger, better games, beautifully packaged and offering much better value for money.

Perhaps it is time that we stopped writing coarsely based games on the standard templates on disks. We've got an awful lot of catching up to do.

Directory Editor

Give more meaning to your Commodore disk directories

By Tony Crowther

When you use a large number of disks it can become very difficult to remember just what each program in a disk directory does. Furthermore, if you SAVE and scratch a lot of programs on your disks, then finding the position of the program that you want in the directory can be very time consuming. The program presented here changes all of that by allowing you to edit your disk directories.

Basically *Directory Editor* allows you to alter the position of any file in a directory listing, alter the program name and enter comments into the directory. You can also burn programs that allow you to do this which have been embedded in the past, but this one has a feature that makes it stand out from all the rest.

All other directory editors that I have seen allow you to enter comments into the directory listing, as does this one. But, they only allow you to edit one line of a directory. *Directory Editor* can very 'sort' a whole scroller of lines to be edited and they can be used to include a graphical picture of you feel. Because of the embedded nature of the program, the comments will start to run automatically. Most of the commands available to you are presented on the screen, together with the

necessary messages. The table gives details of all options available to you.

Getting it all in

The program is presented in a Basic loader. This should be typed in using our *Syntax Checker* on the *Listings* article for more information on this. Before you RUN the program you should SAVE the program to disk. Now enter the following commands

```
POKE  43,0:POKE16,0:POKE
60D:NEW
```

Now LOAD and RUN the Basic loader. Once finished this will SAVE the program *Directory Designer* on to disk with 1048575 length that you should set to RUN the program. To RUN the Basic loader:

Continued on page 16

KEY	FUNCTION	ACTION
F1	EDIT	Allows you to edit entries in the directory listing. You can only edit those directory entries that are in white on the screen. If you have selected a program function you can't edit the program listing.
F3	TYPE	Pressing this key twice will EXIT NEWS with turn all directory entries white.
		You can now edit the program file entries.
SPACE BAR		Removes the directory entry under the cursor and stores it. You can see the directory entry currently stored on the screen.
F5	INSERT	Places a new directory entry under the current cursor position.
F7	COPY	Copies all of the currently greyed directory entries so that you can move them all to a new cursor position.

KEY	FUNCTION	ACTION
INST	INSERT	Insert a blank directory entry at the current cursor position.
DEL	DELETE	Delete directory entry at current cursor position.
CRSR KEYS		Allow you to move the cursor within the directory listing. You can only move the cursor within the current directory.
R	LOAD	Loads in the directory of the disk in the drive.
S	SAVE	Save the directory that you are editing onto the disk in the drive. Once completed you can LOAD the directory in using the normal directory LOAD command.

13

30K RAM Disk

What's the best way to speed up your disk drive? Don't use it!

By Fahiem Wagiet

We waste time loading and saving Basic programs on disk when they can be easily stored temporarily in the 64s memory. The RAM Disk program takes care of this with the minimum of fuss and bother.

A simple definition of a virtual machine would go something like this: "a section of software designed to enhance or replace an actual hardware device performing the same function". This is a popular RAM disk description. It is a program designed to replace and replace a physical disk drive by making ordinary computer RAM act in the same way as a disk drive would. A program like this, that provides the user with a cheap alternative to investing in a costly, if not slower disk drive performing a similar job. The advantage to having a virtual drive is obvious. For one thing, tape users can have the same instant access of programs that disk owners have, at a fraction of the cost. Another advantage is speed. Typically a drive such as a 1541 takes a few seconds to access a disk and another few seconds to load it.

Now, imagine a program which performs that same function, but at a much higher speed, typically not more than a few seconds for the entire access and loading operation, no matter how large the program!

Program development can be dramatically speeded up by eliminating the time taken by a drive having to search for a file. Also the chance of errors creeping in are reduced.

The program I have written provides all the above mentioned advantages together with ease of use. It works by adding a number of Basic altered, but well known commands of Basic and yet, is as good as any similar commercial product. I have written a fully intelligent DOS providing the user with all the commands available from disk (RAM disk that is), cataloguing the directory and formatting the disk. It has the ability to store up to ten files in memory at once. Though these files can be of any length, the maximum number can be very large. Currently the DOS is limited to approximately 30Kbytes, which should be quite enough for most purposes. The DOS sends RBytes from Basic memory, referenced by file name into a virtual disk. This "extra" RAM is used by the DOS for housekeeping, storing and accessing the individual files directory, plus several general maintenance commands as well as the first few Kbytes of the RAM disk memory.

All in all, the RAM disk adds six new commands to Basic, written in the form of a wedge routine, each

command preceded by an asterisk (*). The commands are:

* **"LOAD'filename'"** — this loads a file from Ram disk (if it exists) into Basic program space. If it is used from program mode (from within another program), the newly loaded program begins automatic execution.

* **"SAVE'filename'"** — saves a file from Basic memory to RAM disk, at all times checking whether the file already exists, whether the directory has reached its file limit of ten, or whether the Ram disk is filled to capacity.

* **"DIR"** — displays the RAM disk files, ending all memory available by other programs to be stored in RAM disk (similar to a formatting procedure).

* **"CAT"** — displays a list of all current files in RAM disk, as well as the total capacity (remaining for other programs.

* **"ERASE'filename'"** — saves a file from RAM disk freeing the memory used by that program, for use by other programs. This is similar to the RAM disk scratch command.

* **"RUN'filename'"** — same as the load command, except that when used programmatically (from within another program), the program automatically begins its loading.

Only Basic programs are handled by the DOS at the moment, although if you really wanted to use machine code you could change the Basic start and add addresses to point to the beginning and end of your program and then use one of the new commands (except of course, the "RUN" command). Once you have included say OPEN, CLOSE or PRINT commands to the DOS at this would have taken up valuable memory. Disk memory extends from $0780 to $FFFF (34560 to 65535).

Machine language programmers will notice that the DOS uses all the memory between $C000 and the RAM under Basic ROM. So whenever the RUNSTOP/RESTORE combination is used, as NMI interrupt is triggered and one of the first things that it does is to restore all the default vector contents at $314. The routine to do this is situated at $FD15. This could also be used to restore or reset and re-enter it in the process it overwrites the DOS variable area. The best way to return to the DOS without corrupting the RAM is to EOR in the SP (Stack Pointer) to return to the last saved position. The DOS starts up initialized in Kernal mode and in the process it overwrites the DOS variables are initialized, all appropriate Basic pointers set correctly.

by redirecting the NMI vector to point to a special subroutine of my own, which when activated, avoids this and restores the Basic start and end vectors to their respective positions. It also switches out the NVS mode to overwrite any RAM that might be required.

When using any of the new commands within an IF – THEN statement, always be sure that you take a small precaution. Due to the way the IF – THEN statement is structured, my commands will be executed on the next line IF the program on it. To avoid this happening, use a colon before any RAM disk command immediately following a THEN command, as follows:

IF (A=1) THEN ?"LOAD":OPEN

To enter the program, type in the Basic loader supplied. To activate the new commands type:

SYS 32768

You should see a message stating the program title. When the RAM is initialized, all appropriate Basic

pointers are lowered to the correct locations. Therefore, when first activating the routine, remember to use a CLR after the SYS command to clear any variables that may have been defined.

And Finally

As you can see, this program provides most of the facilities of a disk drive, more in terms of speed. The only thing it cannot store is the RAM disk command, but remember that it must be re-set up each time you switch on (it doesn't move the program into RAM each time). As there is no disk moving everything it is called. For this reason the program is virtually incompatible with any other program than uses disk RAM above 32768 in memory. It cannot is that you have a disk, volatile method of temporarily storing data and programs. It does provide a quick way of copying multiple programs by simply saving them to disk. It also offers the saving in time & memory at once and transferring them to another disk or tape one by one. I hope you find this program useful in your programming endeavours.

Bard's Tale II

A nstead of learning ale played in front of a Bard is a satellite way to get him to sing. Should you pay for the ale, there is an excellent chance that he expects market is his ballads will be your own. That is of course, assuming that you survive this latest adventure.

The evil Archmage Lagoth Zanta has stolen the Destiny Wand and broken it into seven pieces. These pieces lie hidden somewhere within the Realm, protected by hordes of the evil minions. Not only must you locate and reassemble the various segments, but also seek out a final encounter with the Archmage himself.

Four parts of characters in this role-playing game from Electronic Arts can either be developed from scratch or transferred from the original Bard's Tale. Survival in the Realm does not come easily and many of your lesser characters will be lost early on. There is a starter dungeon for you to practice on two years for that, your party will need to be approaching twelfth level to stand a chance of succeeding.

There is the usual range of races and professions to choose from all with a selection of skills although the that is probably the least useful character - traps are better dismantled using magic. At the start of the game, each of the warrior classes will be of the greatest importance as you venture, wound and finally armblinding.

There are a total of 79 spells to choose from although ironically, you can only select a few to start with. Magicians can select from seven different types of spells (conjurer, magician and can progress up through the ranks to sorcerer, wizard and finally archbishop. Some of the spells are truly awesome in their power - Magicians have up to 600 pts points of damage an every single enemy within spellcaster of 40 feet range or two monsters, by comparison the sorcery are using nuclear razors on the flea.

Combat is much the same as in the original game with the addition of missile combat although oddly enough, this is limited in range. You can't fire arrows at an enemy 40 feet away. Greater experience brings valuable combat options although often you can't use them on several enemies at once.

Therefore if you inflict 25 points of damage on a six point goblin, your next two hits on the same dead beast are something of an overkill.

The game has been considerably enlarged on the original. Now there are six towns to explore plus a wilderness containing crypts and castles. One particular hut to search out is the Saga's Guy. This will clutter you of any oracles of your money and in return, give you information which may or may not be useful to you. The big attraction of Bard's Tale II is the different dungeons to be explored, all of which need to be carefully mapped as secret doors abound and one particular area moved could move you to the spell point around. There are 16 different dungeons, some more difficult than the earlier ones and all a lot more fiendish in their design. There are however a number of minor mapping which help graph otherwise useless graph. Equipping monsters and transferring items from one dungeon to another can be really tricky though can. Another problem is that when you now trace current position, the computer is reset and you have to read in from scratch again - a tedious game moving which not here would should be a selector. Suddenly, the game can lose you to the self-mode screen and you cannot get off the flee. There is no way to map out the dungeon properly and map again though no more more.

This is one of the three best role playing systems currently available. (Ultima and Alternate Reality are the other two.) An excellent game that will require hundreds of hours playing before the world is once more a safe place. **G.H.B.**

Factfile:
Title: Bard's Tale II · Destiny Knight. Supplier: Electronic Arts, Langley Business Centre, 11-49 Station Road, Langley, Nr Slough, Berks SL3 7YN. Tel: 0753 49442. Machine: C64. Price: £14.95.

TOTAL BACKUP POWER
Now ACTION REPLAY

NOW EVEN MORE POWERFUL, MORE FRIENDLY AND WITH...

£29·99

Action Replay works by taking a 'SNAPSHOT' of the program in memory so it doesn't matter how the program was loaded – from tape or disk – at normal or turbo speed.

● **WRAP 2½. THE WORLD'S FASTEST SERIAL DISK TURBO LOADS**
200 BLOCKS IN 6 SECONDS!! AND BLOCKS IN 2 SECONDS!! that's even faster than some parallel systems. Built into Action Replay is a new turbo load/save facility... used automatically when loading or saving programs saved on sequential disk or normal load independent of the cartridge with INDEPENDENT.

● **SIMPLE TO USE.** Just press the button and make a complete backup – tape to disk, tape to tape, disk to tape, disk to disk. THE PROCESS IS AUTOMATIC – JUST GIVE THE BACKUP A NAME.

● **TURBO RELOAD.** All backups will reload at turbo speed. COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF THE CARTRIDGE.

● **SPRITE KILLER.** Make yourself invincible. Disable sprite collisions – works with most programs.

● **PICTURE SAVE.** Freeze any game and print out the screen. Print hi-res multicolour on Epson, star etc. Saves screens as Koala, Blazing Paddles, etc.

● **PRINTER DUMP.** Print out your listings to most printers. Save screens to disk. Works in all modes with most printers. MPS 801, 803, Star, Epson etc. Double size, Hi-Modes, screen and sprite. Scan over multiple graphics and text.

● **PICTURE SAVE.** Save any Next Generation multicolour picture as shown in the draft of game. Compatible with Blazing Paddles, Koala etc. Image System etc.

● **SPRITE MONITOR.** Unique Sprite monitors allows you to freeze the action and view all the sprites, watch the animation step by step, customise your own sprites... save your sprites. Load your own sprites back into the game and re-start the program.

● **MUSIC SAVE.** Freeze the action and store those tunes to disk! Load them back independently from the game. The tunes remain as an auto run module. Ideal for custom games.

● **MULTISTAGE TRANSFER.** Transfer multistage programs from tape to disk. The extra parts load now – a unique feature. Enhancement disk available for special games.

● **UNIQUE CODE INSPECTOR.** This allows even experienced programmers to investigate the program. Look at the raw data, see how it works. Everything at your fingertips.

● **TEXT MODIFY.** Change disk screen, high story scrolls etc. Put your own name into a game that contains it or amend the messages.

● **MONITOR.** Full feature 'Freeze' type MACHINE CODE MONITOR. All program features can be used – memory, disassemble, load, disassemble converter, hunt, switching, relocate, load, save etc. Does no memory. Full printer support!!

● **DISK MONITOR.** A special monitor for use with the RAM inside your disk drive. All the usual commands – a useful backup tool.

● **SPRITE MONITOR.** In addition you can view, watch the spacing in any sprite attached to game as it moves within any new drives.

● **FAST FILE COPY.** Made with standard and Warp 25 (Size of up to 248 blocks). Converts formats to and from Warp 25.

● **FAST FORMAT.** Same 20 seconds.

● **TOOLKIT COMMANDS.** A whole range of useful new commands including AUTO LIST NUMBERS, DELETE, MERGE, APPEND, OLD, LINESAVE, etc. PROFESSIONAL – the only program (including directors!) directly from disk to printer and screen without effecting the memory.

● **REDEFINED FUNCTION KEYS.** Simple function key commands for many routines.

● **UNSTOPPABLE RESET.** Reset button to retrieve your system and reset even so called unstoppable programs. LOAD, SAVE, DIR, with real Load Icons directors – no need to type or hesitate.

● **TAPE TURBO.** Designed to make turbo backups for your own program on tape will also improve loading saving speeds on any other normal turbo.

REMEMBER all features are built in and available at the touch of a key. All features work both with **TAPE** and **DISK.** (Except multipart transfer & disk file etc.)

ENHANCEMENT DISK

Contains number of functions! many of the more devastating features that appear now are in this extra disk. Disks for a few years. **SLIDE SHOW** to display your saved pictures. **SPRITE EDITOR** a complete sprite editor helps you create or edit sprites. **MESSAGE MAKER** scrolls your message across the screen add to your program. **BOMB** add sound effects and routines to your program!! **GRAPHICS SUPPORT DISK** to display your saved screens in a slide show sequence. **ALL THIS FOR ONLY £7.99.** This extra disk enhances Action Replay. **ORDER NOW.**

The Light Brigade

Goodbye Disk Drives, Hello CD Roms

By Geoff Bains

Not only has the cassette tape nearly vanished from the standard high street audio scene but the days of the floppy disk and Winchester also look numbered, for these present day mass storage devices are based on magnetic material which is unreliable and slow to access.

Enormous though the 17M of storage available on a CBM64 disk may seem, it is not really large enough for the masses of information especially high quality picture information in common use on many computers today.

Mayne with up to 4Mbytes of RAM are becoming relatively common, loading these with a floppy disk which requires a number of floppy disks to fill the computer's memory is slow and cumbersome, and a faster permanent storage is obviously needed. The future of mass storage currently looks to be the optical disc which is usually not as an audio compact disc.

Even at the most simple level, optical means of storing data are more efficient than the usual magnetic methods. The density of data from optical storage is much greater. You can store as much data on the disc with a fraction of the amount of data required to store a seven picture of that resolution.

The density of data in optical systems is finally determined by the wavelength of light and optical systems use a resolution of a few microns for each spot. You can fit an awful lot of wavelengths into a small area and so fit in a lot of data.

The majority of magnetic storage is based on the use of a layer of magnetic material on a rotating disc. You can read and write magnetically to this layer and the data can be erased and re-written. The magnetic storage method is finally determined by the size of the magnetic material involved.

From the point of view of storing data optically is ideal. But there are problems in producing a reliable, practical optical drive.

As magnetic storage is limited not by the size of grains of magnetic material on the tape or disk (typically a few thousandths of an inch) but by the wavelength of light. Even the Japanese, the measurement experts, cannot manage wavelength of light of a thousandth of an inch.

Of course, the practical methods of storing data optically do not come close to these theoretical densities, but already they get a lot closer than magnetic methods will ever manage.

The potential benefits of optical data storage have been known for some time and it was in 1981 that Philips engineers in Eindhoven, Holland came up with the beginnings of a practical solution. Their idea was meant for the storage of video and sound signals. Of course these marks demarcation by reflecting a laser off the surface would be used. A disc was shown as it was easy to copy to store a convenient speed and small enough to handle easily.

The Philips invention turned into the Laservia video system. Although this did not prove a great commercial success, the technology was marketed in the USA in 1978 (in the USA) and 1982 (in Europe) its commercial overtones were launched, the system could not stand up to the convenience of video cassette recorders and it has all but faded into oblivion. However, the Laservis has great potential, both for video and for storage of data.

The system uses tiny pits in the surface of a 12in disc to modulate the reflected beam of light from a laser shining onto its surface as it revolves. The pits are only about 1um in width of the light, arranged so that angled on a spiral track (like an LP) which around the disc, such track only 1.5um away from the next.

All this gives a data density of about 25,000 bits per inch – miles more than magnetic media and giving around ten times the capacity of any Winchester.

Although the Laserdisc failed commercially, it served to develop the techniques and mechanical production of optical storage. The laser focusing lens reading the disk must be kept as close to the surface of the disc as to keep it in exactly the right focus and position, and the servo systems to achieve this are precise and complex.

The WORM Has Turned

CROSS SECTION THROUGH A CD DISC

PIT CODING ON A CD-ROM

OPTICS OF CD LASER SYSTEM

write data onto it a powerful laser is used to heat the coating, which reverses the magnetic field at that spot. The reversal of polarised light from the read laser can then be used to detect the heated spot. The whole disk may then be erased all at once by heating it again in a magnetic field to produce an evenly magnetised disk.

The second type of erasable disc uses coatings of a tellurium-selenium alloy or a gallium-antimony alloy. These materials have the property of changing their crystalline structure when heated and this affects their reflectivity.

Again, a write laser produces hot spots of a temperature just above the melting point of the alloy coating on the disc surface, under the control of data (shown internally) they change their reflectivity and so allowing the read

LOW SIGNAL LEVEL
HIGH SIGNAL LEVEL
LOW SIGNAL LEVEL

LOW SIGNAL LEVEL
HIGH SIGNAL LEVEL

TRACKING ERROR GENERATION

lasts to pick them up from then on. The whole disc can be erased by heating it to a temperature just below the melting point of the coating whereupon the alloy reverts to its original structure.

Philips have produced reliable erasable discs using the Gadlium strontium coating which can be recorded and erased a thousand times without degradation.

However, with both of these systems, data cannot be overwritten. These are CD-EPROMs rather than CD-RAM. Much research is of course dedicated to finding a suitable material to use for CD-RAM. However, the future for optical storage already looks set. With units containing several drives with a total capacity of a couple of hundred Gbytes, the necessity for converting means to be totally important.

For small systems and even home computers the CD-ROM will surely be a commonplace sight before very long, even before erasability comes along. The convenience and efficiency of vast quantities of data compactly and permanently stored and instantly accessible is too great a temptation for the micro industry to shy from for much longer. Then, of course, how about a game of 700Mb program hi-fi sound and video picture...
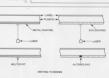
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x

INTERLEAVE BYTES

RECORD ONTO DISC

3 BYTE ERROR BLOCK (***)

DE-INTERLEAVE

DATA WITH BROKEN UP ERROR BLOCK

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x

BREAKING UP ERROR BLOCKS BY INTERLEAVING

LABEL
PLASTIC
METAL COATING
DYE COATING
LASER
LASER
MELTED PIT
ALTERED DYE

WRITING TO WORMS

Grab program lines off the screen without loading them into memory!

Basic Lister

By Stephen Burke

The C64's screen editor is very powerful as screen editors go, anything printed on the screen, be it (read from memory), or typed can be entered easily as a Basic program line simply by moving the cursor to the line, making sure there's a line number up front, and pressing Return.

The problems start when the program lines you wish to edit are not in memory, something else a Basic Lister is a machine code program that allows you to list a Basic program stored on disk without having to load it into memory. This makes it easy to 'steal' lines or subroutines, etc. from another program, even merge and develop it.

The program is made up from three independent routines. The Basic lister can be used on its own, just use the syntax:

```
SYS49152,"filename"
```

To view the directory, you will need to type in the directory code. Simply use the syntax:

```
SYS49152,"$"
```

or

```
SYS49410
```

The final part is a wedge program purely for your own convenience, allowing you to omit the SYS and just use:

```
"filename"
```

While the program is listing, you can use the space bar to pause, pending RUNSTOP will bomb leaving the material on the screen for editing.

Should you try to list a non-Basic program, you will get the expected garbage on the screen and you might be unable to halt the listing. Should this happen, RUNSTOP and RESTORE following by:

```
CLOSE2
```

will return things to normal.

If you are using the comma ',' wedge though, it will spool reinitialising with:

```
SYS828
```

Table 1 — Basic Lister Commands
SYS49152,"filename" to list a program
SYS49152,"$" or SYS49410 to list the directory
SYS828 to initialise the wedge
"filename" to list using the wedge
RUNSTOP halts the listing
RUNSTOP/RESTORE and
CLOSE2 if program won't halt.

See listing on page 77

Before the world was created, two universes were
forged together. They were equal but opposite; one
being positive the other negative. On the border of
each Aether (universe) was a nucleus – Morpheus which
maintained the balance.

Small orbital pods surround the nucleus and keep the
negative and positive charges flowing in harmony. Forever
growing, learning and creating, the nucleus was fast
developing into a thread.

Many false starts have now passed and the threat of
the nucleus has become more apparent. A commercial
company has been set up to destroy Morpheus before it gets out
of control. If this were to happen the entire universe would
be brought to a halt. The readers of the universe join forces
to regulate a galactic operation recruiting young pilots to
fly state-of-the-art space craft, in a bid to fight for the
nucleus.

Well, as in most games you are one of the lucky pilots
picked for the mission. To clear space from all nucleus'
and nail Morpheus in a one-to-one final battle.

As this is a government project you can not afford to
waste time and money, you have fifty time zones in which
to get to level fifty, failing to do so will result in the game
ending.

If you become bankrupt the research budget into new
weapons and systems for your ship will stop. You need
all the help you can get. At the start of these, as the game
is almost impossible without spdate equipment. So not only
is this a difficult shoot'em up, there is a fair bit of brainpower
involved too!

To help you locate the orbitals and nucleus there is
a scanner positioned at the top of the screen, (marked as
A cross, this shows you any other nucleus. As well as hostile
aliens there are also rocks floating freely in space, that
renders your shield.

To save the time has come to shoot Morpheus who's
hard centre cannot really be hit by blaster fire, you must shoot
just orbital, thus creating an imbalance within the two
universes and killing the nucleus – easy?

There are 36 levels in this game, each one harder than
the last, and as you progress you will need to buy more
sophisticated weapons from one of the 48 on offer! You
can also build your ship up to a huge craft almost filling
the screen, but this takes time and money.

As you blast above your score is assessed and at the
end of each level, it is transferred into money leaving your
entry intact. If you have a huge bundle of goodies and
suddenly get repodated don't worry, it is rounded to the
nearest figure and carried over to the next game.

Well, that's basically the ins and outs of the play.
Presentation is slick with many options available. Options
allow you to save your high score and your game position,
which is very neat.

What about the expensive asking price? Not a kind of
sum the average Granny banging Kid could afford I'm sure,
but the money for the great packaging has to come from
somewhere!

Never-the-less, a great game, but having a Swiss bank
account is a great help, please make cheques
payable...   K.R.

Trackline:
Title: Morpheus. Supplier: Rainbird Software, 74 New
Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1PS. Tel: 01-631 5252.
Number C64/128, Price: £14.99 (Cs),£17.99 (Disk).

Which Drive?

Disk drives come in all shapes and sizes, how do they measure up?

By Norman Doyle

Once upon a time life was easy; choosing a disk drive for your Commodore meant the C64. Now there is the standard CBM: Commodore have four – 1541, 1570, 1571, 1581 – and then there's the Oceanic, Excelerator+ Plus, and Blue Chip 5.25. For CCB users the choice is simpler if full advantage is to be taken of the fast loading 128 mode, only the 1570 or 1571 will do.

Except for the 1581, all of the drives offer compatibility with the C64 the 5.25 inch disk system but is the saving offered by non-Commodore drives a trade off against full compatibility? What are the pitfalls and benefits?

Commodore 1541

The 1541 is the standard against which the others are to be judged. Based on the PET's old 4040 and 2031 system, the 1541 started life as the 1540 drive for the VIC-20 computer. With the launch of the C64, the 1540 was soon superseded by the 1541 whose main benefit was a streamlined case to match the colour of the C64, a few small mechanical changes and slightly improved speed.

A few ROM problems which appeared on the 4040 were imported through the 1540 to the 1541. The main problem being that the save and replace facility malfunctions when the directory fills an exact number of data blocks. It's a pity that Commodore

didn't grasp the opportunity to correct this fault. Even worse, the system still carries this bug through to the updated 1541D and the new 1570/71 drives.

Any reference to the 1541 is usually preceded by an adjective such as sluggish or snail-like. Most drives for other computers load with the speed of a supermarket packer, the 1541 loads like a dock worker on go-slow. The speed problem is not caused purely by the electronics system, it is a restriction created by the physical constraints of serial loading.

A serial loader sees one communications wire so data is fed down the path one bit at a time. If Commodore had employed the user port it would enable a whole byte to be transferred in parallel, giving an immediate eight fold speed increase. Systems such as Evesham Micro's Dolphin DOS fast loader takes advantage of the user port and the improvement in speed is unbelievable.

One advantage that Commodore compatible disk drives have over competitors is the fact that they are 'intelligent'. This means that the DOS is held on board the drive rather than occupying memory within the computer itself. Consequently, the drive can be programmed and each facilities or spooling from disk to printer can be achieved without tying up the computer. This does leave the

disadvantage of making the drive larger than normal, but this is presumably a result of the inclusion of the power supply inside the drive's casing.

The drives are supplied with good support software but the manual leaves a lot to be desired. The section on relative files in the old 1541 manual contains an example listing which is actually incorrect and has caused problems for users in the past.

Commodore 1570/71

These drives were developed for use with the C128 and, although they work with the 64, they are not advised as a substitute unless you're willing to accept that half of their capabilities will remain unused.

If you consider the C128 as two computers within the same shell, the 1570 drive actually contains three storage/retrieval systems and the 1571 has four!

Both drives have a fully compatible 1541 system but in 128 mode a special, faster system clicks into operation which can also be used for loading CP/M format disks and, with suitable software, it will even allow MS-DOS disks to be transferred from C128 format to any MS-DOS PC and back again.

The extra mode in the 1571 arises because it can use both sides of the disk for storage without having to flip the disk. C128D machines have the 1571 drive fitted as standard.

The drive automatically selects 1541 mode when it is first turned on and this is important because this mode will present no problem to those DOS wedges which appear in the public domain. The DOS does allow for the drive to be placed into two modes, MS-DOS and CP/M from Basic but the relies on an advanced system of disk commands called burst commands. If these burst commands are used from some standard C128 programs to verify data for format this can confuse some machines.

Some problems with the 1571 DOS and CP/M modes led to the adoption of a new ROM chip to cure some of the faults. These commands, like those in the 1541, are dealt with in great detail in the manual.

Commodore 1581

This is a departure from the normal 5.25 inch system into the more professional format of 3.5in disks. The first question that arises is what benefit does a disk that is physically smaller give other than ease of handling. This drive has more than four times the capacity of the 1541 system and offers faster access. This drive also has the ability to create sub-directories, a feature already well established on hard disk units.

For serious business users and programmers, these extra, increased storage space becomes of particular benefit and should be relied with the popularity of the machine in the future. FSS can only be achieved using relative files, although, as these can be quite convoluted to program, software seems never to make full use of them.

As a second drive (with device number whatever) for professionals it should greatly increase compatibility with both of the C128/64 modes and facilities. The secret of the 1581's versatility lies in its ability to be 'mapped' as a multi-drive so that any of the 64/128 modes can get access to it.

errors are generated. Another problem, which Commodore cannot really be blamed for, is when these disks are used.

Normal one-sided disks actually have recording resolutions on both sides but only one notch is cut thus forbidding use of the second side. As Commodore point out, flipping the disk over and cutting an extra notch has two potential disadvantages. Mechanically, a felt pad rides on the normally unused side of the disk and this can cause friction damage. The second reason stems from the fact that some of the single sided disks are rejected double sided disks.

If you test this out with a disk and find that it is formatted on each side and although it will recognise the difference between a double sided disk and a 3.5in drive you have to cut the second notch yourself to bring the other side into use.

A solution does exist for this problem in the shape of Professional Systems Software's 1571 Flip ROM which sorts out most of the 1571 woes and even some ROM deficiencies mentioned here and a few more besides.

This is a departure from the normal 5.25 inch system into the more professional format of 3.5in disks. The first question that arises is what benefit does a disk that is physically smaller give other than ease of handling. The...

Excelerator + Plus FSD-2

This is probably the best known alternative to the 1541 but still not emulate the higher capabilities of the 1570/1. Although professing total compatibility with a 1541, the Excelerator does at a higher cost of less than half the size of the Commodore machine, but the power supply is housed separately.

A recent competition hosted by Commodore magazine featured anyone who could find incompatible software and, although the results have not yet been made public at this stage, nothing of great significance.

This is the problem with varying from the Commodore brand. If the systems were identical to the 1541, there would be no point in anyone buying them but nothing of any real significance here.

The installation of the Excelerator exceeds the 1541 in that it...

machine twice, discuss the merits of the company logos or drive design? Poring through the disk slot I could see a slight difference in the internal design of the Disney drive, so equipped with a whatdya? internal design.

The internal construction of the mechanics of the drives is noticeably similar and it is notable that the Disney system looked more resilient and it tasted the stacking scratch characteristic of the Excellence. Horrendously, the circuit boards took very little away on this telling difference.

There is only one thing that worries me slightly. I know that the Excellence +Plus is an improved, more reliable version of the Excellence Plus on which version does the Oceanic drive approximate? Could it be the earlier Plus? Here my knowledge gives out rather company could not me a definite answer and looking at the circuit boards the Oceanic has a higher code number that the = Plus. I will continue my investigations and try to ascertain the truth in the meantime I'm afraid that my answer is that I don't know.

Blue Chip 5.25

First, reaction to tests to the ratio of the Excellence/Oceanic drives but considerably similar than the 1541. The advertising blurb proclaims a greater compatibility with the C64 than the 1541ÇÖ, a side range as some of the introduced bugs in the updated 1541 machine.

Blue chip certainly looks as if it has more in common with the 1541 than it has with the older drives and promises a more reliable working relationship. With the exception of the 1541, the drives all have a key latch which must be depressed to release or expose a disk. The removal of the key latch from the Blue Chip design means that even though a disk is held tightly it can while the drive is in use.

One problem I have found with the key latch can be the slight variation in disk size. This disk is allocated, the drive casing is removed, a test or two is edged and then the drive is exposed. It is reassembled. To undo the shape present a delicate soldering job which would have been avoided if proper switches had been employed.

Which Drive?

Before discussing which drive is the best I must refer to mention Commodore's 1551. This was intended as the alternative drive for the C16 Plus4 system and offered parallel data transfer with vastly increased speeds. I've never actually seen one and I can't find records of any being sold but it's a pity that Commodore didn't integrate this kind of machine into its C64 and C128 ranges, as a reliable and faster drive is sorely needed.

Back to the real alternatives. The Commodore drives offer assured compatibility with the C64 range and C64 computers but suffer from higher prices. All of the other drives claim more compatibility than the 1541

but, as the tests show, this did not appear to be the case. I'd like to see the results of each company's tests...

The Blue Chip and the Excellence offer £459.95 a price tag but although the Excellence is £30 cheaper it does not include the traditional offer of software with the drives. The Disney drive also offers, a purchaser can choose between accepting five adventures plus five arcade games or the Easyfile Database and Future Finance Planning Package.

I can find little to choose between the machines. For £138 users the choice is limited to £370.79 but for £44 converts any of the machine would sell the £1541 and careful searches through the want-ads can reveal several hand machines for as little as £60.

If your decision is based on design then the Blue Chip offers a clean, neat package despite its length the my favourite is still the Excellent design in its short second hand machines for as little as £60.

MACHINE	PRICE	SIZE(mm)			
		L	W	H	
1541	£19.95	376	206	100	Delta Pi Software / 8 Ruxways Lane / N Yorks YO2 1ND / Tel (0847) 688865
1570/71	£199.00	256	140	65	Delta Pi Software / 8 Ruxways Lane / N Yorks YO2 1ND / Tel (0847) 688865
1581	£199.95	230x140x65			Financial Systems Software / 2nd Floor / Ashdene House / St Mary's Street / Worcs WR1 1HA / Tel (0905) 611338
Excellence +Plus	£139.95	275x158x58			Evesham Micros / 63 Bridge St / Evesham / Worcs. WR11 4SF / Tel (0386) 765500
Oceanic	£139.95	275x150x58			Electronic Computers 37-39 High Street / Lancaster LA1 4HS / Tel (0433) 517679
Blue Chip	£139.95	359x145x75			Datel Electronics / Units 8 9 / Dewsbury Road / Fenton Industrial Estate / Stoke-on-Trent / Tel. 0782 273815

Byting into the 6510

In previous articles we have designed a simple wordprocessor. Now we want to send the textfile to the printer and save it onto disk or tape

By Burghard-Henry Lehmann

The problem with computers is that things are not as straight forward as you would like them to be.

Take for example your average video recorder. Most people have no problem operating a video recorder, because it has a play button for replay, a record button for recording things off the telly and a stop button for stopping either.

What could be more straight forward - except for the turbanically incompetent, who are worried to press any button, in case the whole thing explodes.

But with computers things are much more complicated. With a computer you get a very confusing looking keyboard and on that keyboard they are no keys marked "Play" or "Record" or "Stop". Nor is there a "Start-the-Printer" key.

So how do you operate your disk drive or datasette or printer?

Flexibility

In previous articles I have frequently talked about the importance and advantage of flexibility in computing.

A video recorder, to return to our example, is so straight forward because it only has a limited amount of quite specialised functions. You want to be able to record something off your TV with it. You want to be able to replay it. And that is it.

A computer on the other hand is an extremely versatile data processing device which you can use for all sorts of purposes (including running your computer games, video recorders and so on).

Because of this vast amount of possible tasks, like typing text into the drive for storage or sending text to a printer, to get a hardcopy. Also some not-quite-so-obvious purposes as running a robot?

But it can also (forcibly) achieved? It's surprisingly simple. The computer is given data (input), and then it is programmed to do something with that data (processing), and the result of this processing is data, and where this output goes to and what happens with it entirely depends on what you've got connected to your computer and to which output device you have chosen to send data to.

In other words, the output of a datafile "1" can result in the letter "A" being printed on the screen or that letter being printed or record on tape.

Or it can result in the sort of robot being lifted or on a more devastating note - a nuclear missile being launched and the nuclear holocaust being started.

The microprocessor, which I have described at the beginning of this series as the real computer, doesn't give a damn about what happens with the data it outputs. It just processes the data and then sends it on its way, as far as it is concerned.

The microprocessor reads the data and sends it through the data in and then sends it on its way to what happens at the other end.

Back to Brass Tacks

In previous articles we developed a simple wordprocessing program. Now we want to store the textfile, which this program creates onto disk or tape, retrieve it from disk or tape and, finally get our printer to give us a hardcopy of it.

I've decided to put all this into one article, because, as you will see, the operations are surprisingly similar. This brings me back to what I initially said about flexibility.

In terms of output the disk drive or the tape recorder or the printer are nothing more than different output devices. As far as the 6510 microprocessor is concerned they are no different in any way to the screen or the memory.

All we do is send the data which the microprocessor produces, to a different stream or channel. But that is really all there is to it!

Back to our Program

But as always in this series, let me explain matters further to you with the help of practical routines. You'll find the listings of these routines at the end of this article. Type them in and you'll have two different ways of saving our written textfile onto disk or tape. This is because there are two very different routines for saving onto disk and onto tape.

The first one is the simpler of the two, because it uses the in-built save routines of the Commodore. This is the routine you will find in the listing entitled "Tape Save and Tape Load is for those

of you who only got a datassette, but they can easily be modified to work on disk too. The first and the second routines use the ASCII-codes for the actual filename. This is of course not a very flexible method, and I'll use it to encourage you to design a routine which allows the user to enter a filename of his own.)

Save File

The first and the second routine are also very good to illustrate the point I made at the beginning of this article: all we really do is send data to a different output channel than the usual or receive data from a different input channel.

To explain what I mean, let me give you a very short program which you can enter in less than a minute (that is, if you're using my assembler, *SpeedA Assembler*).

| 0001 49152 |
| B 1264 A |
| N 0003 A |
| 86 358 $FFD2 |
| 40 $FE |

All this routine does is load the ASCII-code of the letter "A" into the accumulator and then calls one of the most often used routines in the ROM of the C64 which is called "CHROUT", which is short for "character out".

This routine, the character contained in the accumulator is sent to the current output device. And if you haven't given any directions to the contrary, the current output device is always the screen. In other words, the character contained in the accumulator is printed on the screen, and to be precise, at the next print position.

Now, the byte preceded by here, this is the same as if you would give the BASIC instruction: PRINT "A". As a matter of fact, the BASIC interpreter uses the above Kernal routine every time a PRINT instruction is given.

All we want to do now is send our data to a different output channel, namely the disk drive. We want to SAVE the program onto disk and store our data in a file on disk under its proper output channel.

Now the system is set up to send data to the disk instead of the screen. The following routine, lines 530-540 carries out the actual storing to the disk drive. And note that once more, this is exactly the same procedure as it is used for the data to the screen.

In lines 170-280 I tell the system which filename I want to use and how long it will be.

First of all I load the length of the

filename into the accumulator. (The actual length - 8 bytes - is given at the end of the routine before the ASCII-codes for the actual filename. This is of course not a very flexible method, and I'll use it to encourage you to design a routine which allows the user to enter a filename of his own.)

I don't think I'll have to spend much time to explain lines 450-490 to you. The working of, what I call "OUTLOOP", should be pretty clear to you by now. "OUTLOOP" simply sends 500 byte - a full screen - to the disk drive. This is of course not strictly necessary, but I think you will repeat this routine very quickly with something better, but I wanted to use workprocessor and saves only the characters actually written.

One way of doing this is by using a character delimiter, for example the line "BEQ EXIT" after line 480 and lines 550-600 at the end.

Finally I close all the channels I have opened in lines 350-390. This is important because if I don't do that and open a file under the same channel, the program behaves in an unexpected way.

In fact, the reason I've included a short machine-code routine which will put back to workspace only the true length of the program, not the full 500 bytes, is because in line 590, I have a short program, where data is retrieved from the disk, processed and new data sent back to the disk to be stored.

But in our case we can close the data channel and get a program listing. This is what line 670 does, which calls on another Kernal routine, named CLRCH, which is short for 'clear channel'.

Load File

In the next routine 'Load File' we do the same thing - only in the opposite direction. We retrieve data from a disk drive and store it into the computer's memory.

Lines 190-320 open the appropriate channel from which the disk drive

Lines 360-390 get the start address, we've noted before, from the disk and initialize the beginning of our module.

Lines 440-510 get the data itself.

To determine the end of this loop, I use "ST" which is the internal status variable of the C64. This variable is located at decimal 144 ($90) and is updated after every input or output operation. In the case of input from the disk drive it tells when the end of the file has been reached. In this case "ST" will contain 64, otherwise 0.

Lines 540-590 close the input channel and clear all channels, as we did in the first routine.

The rest of the routine pushes the wedge-byte into memory by converting each byte into its appropriate screen code and outputting that to the screen — as we've done before.

Tape Save

The third and fourth routine I've written for all you datasette users out there. But they can easily be modified for disk use and thus avoid the recourse of saving and loading data onto disk.

All you have to do, if you want to use these routines for the disk, is change the device number to line 180 and 700, modify the BASIC line numbers interrupted with the break key — in the case of the disk I use an error trapping routine which at the same time will be used to change to the next routine. We do not need to open or later re-close anything, because we will be using that routine in the Kernal.

The fourth routine again does the opposite of what we did in the third routine. Therefore, it is similarly structured and needs very little explanation, except for two points.

The Kernal load routine is also used for verifying a file on disk or tape. Therefore we have to tell the system what we want. If we load a zero into the accumulator (line 200), it will load the file. If we load a one into the accumulator, it will verify. For our purposes here I've chosen to verify.

This is done by either setting or clearing the carry flag. If the carry flag is clear, it has verified; if it is set, it hasn't.

Line 290-300 simply tell the system where we want the file to be loaded to, if we are using the so-called forced loading, which loads a file to that address and not the one given on tape.

After I've called the Kernal Load routine which does the actual loading (or verifying), I test the carry flag to see if an error has occured (line 300). If carry is set in this case it can mean several things. The right bit hasn't been loaded on disk or we had an error in our verifying. For the latter I've interrogated with the break key. In the case of verifying — it doesn't verify.

In this case we jump straight to the verify-routine and, like this the verify loop hasn't been completed correctly, we inform the user that the screen code is erased, and tell the user with a routine which screen ... to use in the Load file routine.

Printer Routine

Sending our textfile to the printer, as we do in our fifth routine, is really the same as sending it to the screen or the disk drive or the datasette. Again, all we are using is a different output device, namely the printer.

To open the appropriate output channels we of course don't have to give a filename. So we put a zero into the accumulator, which applies. The open command then resembles (lines 170-180).

Lines 200-280 open the appropriate channels to the printer and send us further explanation.

Lines 320-360 initiate the start of our printout.

In line 390 I send a carriage return to the printer, which is a good idea at the beginning of every printer routine, because it empties the buffer (which might be left over from the last printout) and positions the print head at the left margin.

For this I use a ROM routine which will clear the print buffer for us.

```
LDA # 13
JSR $AB47
```

($AB47 is a short cut to the CHROUT routine which we've used in our "Save File" routine.)

In line 460, then I send a carriage return to the printer (just as with the screen ...) I have to wait for the completion of the printout. Since I've come to the end of this routine, we of course don't have to close any channel here.

The rest of this printer routine is exactly the same as our Save File routine, except the one before it. So if you look at the Save File routine, on page 30, you will find a detailed description of it.

Now, before we start to study our printer buffer and get the rest of our wedge into operation, we have to print a headline. To find the proper control character for what you want to do, you have to consult the manual of your printer. I've got an Commodore MPS printer, so my control character is most probably. To find our print head to the next line, you have to give a character printing the control character ... and upper case. The we choose most, present it is set as upper-case and will print ... but in the ... we print to the printer. But I am quite sure you will be able to ... sending the correct control characters to your printer, by consulting the manual of your printer.

But first, go back on page 31, and look at that routine. The printer buffer and get the rest of our ...

RIMRUNNER

F or far away from the systems of man, at the very edge of the galaxy, uninhabited planets are colonised in a race of hasertoids. Because of the constant attack from its metallic inconvenient of the Araxhteriads, the Systrade protect their colonies with laser shields powered by generators. The Araxhterian have planned an attack support to maintain their charge and that's why the elite force of Rim Runners were formed.

As a Rim Runner you're asked with a pump action you rifle and supplied with four typeline turrets, lasers and everyone. Your objective is to defend the generators and another comes running to replace it. The Runner is a great total and will carry over at great speed through the corridors, but with its nothing to defend itself against the hasertoid Attack.

The attack comes in a variety of deadly critters ranging from Orbalds and borallers to a bizarre collection of trapping and running machines. They vanish at your way your best rifle as any softmake will soon collect you or the runners variable energy. You begin the game with 100 units of energy and each collision costs you five units, reality you're the ground and soon you variable lose to recover. Your supply begins the game as life as a time. When the last life has over for game it's collapse in a heap, Runner can even run over another life at a time when the top over to your colleagues. Also it does delay another Runner is at your side and carry on in your way.

Although too late every hazier on the Runner you must dismantle to re-energise the spent generators by discharging your laser rifle into them. There each shot transforms than horror above the ground and appear to green clicks. When your colony deploys it the top of its turrets. To into your shield, its protective and the generators doors and fail to the ground as the darken flash and blast turn out. Your mission is to mannice three generators for an aliveted over period that also doubles as a bonus. If you succeed you're immediately transferred to a new colony and a tougher mission.

The action is fast and furious as you blast away in any direction in the attacking Araxhteriads, and it played on a sideways scrolling background and accompanied by suitable sound effects, but the graphics are unforged and as other true to the Rimner collapse on the ground. Even the high score table adds to the game as you're paced up scene by scanning the appropriate tun.

Rim Runner was designed by Mastertonic-author Steve Evans and features the same measure of great graphics and addictive gameplay.

T.H.

Fastline:
Title: Rim Runner **Supplier:** Prism Software, 155
Pentonville Road, London N1. Tel: 01-278-6511. **Machine:**
C64. **Price:** £8.99 (£3.99 cassette).

YOUR COMMODORE June 1986

33

Decisive Battles of the American Civil War

W ithout any preamble, I'd like to say that this is the visual impressive slab-full of code that I've seen rendered in a long, long, long time (which is actually a pretty sad comment on the software scene).

The first offering, in this country anyway, from the Australian Strategic Studies Group; this is a package that, unlike many, lives up to its pretentious sounding title. Here we have the chance to play through six major battles of the major wars between the States, from the first encounter at Bull Run, to Sharpsburg (which people over here know as Antietam).

Six games on one disk would be good value in itself, but SSG have also been generous to include the complete authoring system, with which all the game scenarios were produced, on the same disk. They cannot lose by this, because apart from placing the public, this is fertile scenario.

First of all, let's look at the battles. SSG has gone to considerable trouble to inject as much realism as possible into the usual wargame process of shoving icons around the screen. I was impressed by the research I understand went into the whole thing. The name of the writers, if you're interested. This sounds unremarkable, but many wargames have made the opponent's implement totally visible, which is about as sensible as you can get.

Next, the company has brought about the process of military command and control as it was practised in the 1860s. Although orders can be transmitted instantly, all the troops on both sides are commanded by a sub-ordinate, with a personality profile that takes you literally into the battle, including a loyalty rating, which makes it about as realistic as anything, including command and control.

Well, to round things off, let's consider the issue of supply and reinforcements.

Although Decisive Battles looks a lot better than most of its rivals, such as MicroProse games, and continues, like the SSI offerings, it does betray the fact that it comes from a no-research anything in particular found, which doesn't work with cumbersome graphics. The system is well presented, though, and the manual, which comes with the game, is first-rate.

The documentation for the game is lavish, including a glossy full-colour map, maps drawn up for the player. These maps are pretty essential, as unfortunately the charts provided with the game to play can be rather small. These are the first thing many wargamers commonly complain of.

Weight is the most important of the two. With this, you can design the battle-map and set up all the units on both sides. A very large number of factors make up the profile, and once saved, finds any mention of a later on the number of units.

Weapons is the constant part of the program. With this, you can modify the appearance of any of the icons used to represent terrain, units, or anything else. Systems can be redefined with its often un-movement, cover and visibility to Warplan. In short, the authors have thought of just about everything. I cannot recommend this package too highly.P.P.

Teachline:

Name: Decisive Battles of the American Civil War (Vol 1).
Supplier: Strategic Studies Group/Logotron House, 7/8 Bury Walk, London SW3 6QB.
Available from: Selected dealers nationwide.
HSC Disproved: Survey C81 19Q: Tel 01373 53880.

Easy Basic Toolkit

Tired of Basic V2.07
Let Easy Basic take some of the
strain out of programming in Basic

By N. Higgins

Easy Basic is a comprehensive Basic toolkit package for the Commodore 64. It doesn't matter if you're just getting started or you've been at it for years, there's something here for everybody. This allows you to build up a collection of over favourite subroutines and incorporate them easily into the program you're working on. More on this later.

There are many useful extra commands for Easy Basic which make a HELP function essential. Typing HELP at any time will produce a detailed command summary. I mention this at the beginning in case you can't be bothered to read any further — at least you'll have a rough idea of how to get out.

A note on memory usage: Easy Basic uses the RAM under the Basic ROM and the $C000 - $CFFF area. Any Basic program that doesn't use the RAM should run quite happily within Easy Basic.

The Basic Toolkit contains many of the commands no programmer should be without, such as:

AUTO (start, step) This is the command to commence automatic line numbers. For example: AUTO100,30 will start producing line numbers from 100, and incrementing by 10 each time every time a line. To turn off auto line numbering, simply press return over an unused line number.

REN (start,step) This command is complementary to Auto, and it will quickly renumber part or all of a program including GOTOs and GOSUBs.

DEL (start,end) This will likewise delete a range of line numbers. Omitting the second parameter will erase everything from the line specified by the start parameter onwards.

FIND (start,end) This command is used to search for a particular keyword (and/or PRINT or GOTO etc; this command will search the Basic program and report all occurrences. If you should want to find an occurrence of a text string such as a message or

REM statement, enclose the text to be searched for in quotes.

FIND MAIN MENU

Syntax errors are always cropping up and to stop the SHY command will list the offending line ready for re-editing. This also applies to other errors, including the error which occurs after pressing RUN/STOP.

VAR will dump all the variable names and their current values to the screen. This can be very useful when debugging a large program. The program must have been RUN before using this command.

OLD is simply the reverse of NEW. Typing OLD will restore a program after you have typed NEW, and very often even after a cold start (reset).

INFO is used to display the location of the vital bits of your program: the details of the program are the top of Basic variable and to store the

- the end of Basic text
- the beginning of variable

- the end of variables
- the beginning of arrays
- the end of arrays
- the beginning of strings
- the top of strings
- the memory used by variables
- the memory used by arrays
- Basic farms free

NAME"pg name" and DATE"date" are the name of your program and the date. This is particularly useful if you have several versions of a program and you want to find out the most recent version. Note that the program name is printed out in up to 16 characters long, the last two characters are used as prefixes relevant to other commands. The date needn't follow any particular format, it needn't even be the date! As long as it's not longer than 17 characters.

Wouldn't it be useful if the various bits of a program could be a different colour when listed? The command is Colour-(line,colour 0-15). The number refers to the colour you want part of the listing to be. When listed, everything after the specified line will appear in the specified colour. This works by adding a new line containing a REM statement and some special characters. Make sure you don't erase an important program line.

The LIST command has been augmented pressing <> 'will save (using LIST every time, and you can paste the listing with the spacebar ... any other key re-starts and RUNSTOP restores the listing.

Disk users have not been forgotten. DIR will display the disk directory of device 8, without over-writing Basic. Superhot and RUNSTOP function as for LIST.

To load a file from the directory (as used to type the file name), simply cursor up to the relevant entry and type © 1. before the program name, and RETURN. Alternatively, © 1."filename" will achieve the same end. Disk commands default to device 8.

Saving a program is slightly more complex. Using ©S on its own will save your program using the RENAME the command, first you'll need to check if any backup has ... (you can check this at any time using the INFO command). Alternatively, ©S"filename" ... (will save the program with a new name.)

DOS"disk command" can be used to send a command to your drive. DOS on its own will read the drive's error channel. For example, DOS"N:0,DISK NAME" will format a program called FRED and call it 20M.

Easy Basic Command Summary

Command	Description
AUTO(start,step)	Begin auto line numbering
RENO(start,step)	Renumber the program
DEL(line,line)	Delete range of program lines
FIND(text)	Search for keyword or text string
WHY	Display line for editing after ERROR
OLD	Display used variables and values
OLD	Restore a NEW'ed program
NAME"pg name"	Display program locations
DATE"current date"	Set name for program
COLOUR(line, colour 0-15)	Set date
@	Get disk directory
DIR	List
@1"filename"	Load program
@S	Save program
@S"filename"	Save named program
APP"filename"	Append a file
MER"filename"	Merge program lines
BSAVE"filename"8,1,SA,EA	Save block of memory
BLOAD"filename"8,1,SA,EA	Load block of memory
PROTECT"filename"	Protect a program
STAB(1-39)	Set tab column for PRINT
VTAB(1-30)	Set tab line for PRINT
SWITCH	Select user-defined function key
KEYF(1-8)"text"	Set up function key
DUMP(USA	Display numeric in decimal
DUMP(USA	Display memory in decimal
DEC(IS4STS)	Convert decimal to hex
HEX,D000(HF2F)	Convert hex to decimal
LIB	Display function key library
LIB"volume",line,line	Save subroutines
LISS	Delete subroutine from library
DEVICE(1=tape,8=disk)	Save Library
KILL	Kill Easy Basic
RESET	Display command summary

APP"filename" (append) and MER "filename" (merge) are very useful for incorporating pre-written subroutines in a program under construction. Append merely tags the new program on the end of the existing program in memory. It is highly likely the line numbers of the appended program will fit the new program, so use the RENUMBER command to re-number. Merge is more intelligent, and will replace lines whose numbers in the original program where the numbers in the new program exceed them...

The 64's Basic has no facility for saving blocks of memory, so the BSAVE and BLOAD commands fill this gap. The format is BSAVE"filename",8,1,SA,EA and will save the memory in block between SA (start address) and EA (end address) while BLOAD"filename"8,1,SA will load a block into memory starting at SA (start address).

PROTECT"filename" is a special command that saves a program in memory to a protected format. This means that when the program is loaded back, you won't be able to list it (the machine will reset), and the RUNSTOP key is disabled, thus preventing prying eyes getting a look at your work! There are a couple of restraints here; your program must start at the normal Basic start (2048), and you mustn't have used the F... keys.

The function keys can be set up to make life easier for you, as Easy Basic automatically defines the function keys in the following way:

F1 — clear the screen (2 presses run ...
F3 — moves the cursor ...
F5 — moves the cursor 20 columns right
F7 — moves the cursor 20 columns ...
F... — moves the cursor ...

STAB(1-39) and VTAB(1-30) ...

the shifted function keys are
defined as follows:
f7   pauses Basic
f5   returns the current cursor
      position
f3   moves the cursor to the
      bottom left corner of the
      screen
f1   toggles quotes mode on/off

If you wish to define your own
function key assignments, you will first
need to SWITCH from preset mode
to user-defined mode. Now you can
use KEYF1-KEYF8 to assign up to
81 characters to each key. Using
SWITCH again will return you to the
preset mode.

To dump the contents of memory
to the screen, use the following
commands: DUMPLSA will dump
memory to the screen in decimal, from
LA (low address) onwards.
DUMPLSA similarly dumps
memory in Hex. To dump the basic
Rom to a printer, you can enter:
OPEN4:CMD4:DUMP0,40960
DUMPHI and DUMPLO terminate
the dump. Print A4CLOSE4 will

return things to normal.

It converting Hex to Decimal gives
you grief, DEC(0-65535) will display
the corresponding Hex equivalent,
while HEX (0-FFFF) performs the
reciprocal function.

The Subroutine Library, as
mentioned earlier allows you to save
a chunk of memory containing a list of
subroutines used in a program. The
name of the library should correspond
to its name on the disk (or tape), to
make for easy loading. You can then
load the subroutines straight from the
library using O/L, APP at MER. All
the commonly associated with the
subroutine library are prefixed with
LIB. To insert a subroutine into the
library, use LIBI"name" start line,end
line. LIB wants to see a name, so if
you are included as the library, while
LIBD still deletes an entry. LIBD will
save the library using the same set with
the LIBL command, which loads the
library, and LIBS"name" saves it to
disk.

Even though Easy Basic was
designed with the disk user in mind,
the tape user has not been forgotten.
To change the default device from disk

(8) to tape (1), you can use DEVICE.
Likewise, DEVICES will retarget the
disk drive.

KILL can be used to return to
regular 64 mode, and a tap of the
RUNSTOP and RESTORE keys will
reactivate Easy Basic.

Getting it all in

Type and save SAVER, EASY BASIC
and LOADER by:
POKE 43,Φ:POKE44,9:POKE1230:
NEW

Load and run LOADER. Replace
DEVICE in line 83 with H24 or
H36:o), Next, load and run EASY
BASIC, and type NEW. Without
resetting the machine, load SAVER.
Before running, cassette users should
type POKE 4 0 5 1 .

Finally run the SAVER program.
This creates the file called EASY
BASIC V1.1".

To load EASY BASIC, run the
program called H0 LOADER. The
files SAVER, EASY BASIC and
LOADER are no longer needed once
you have run SAVER.

It's Back to the Board Game

Win a hundred pounds worth of board games!

W e've teamed up with CDS for this month's competition and some great games are up for grabs. The Coleco series (Chess, Bridge, Mahjong and Go) will go to the lucky winner, and ten of Mah Jong will go to the runners up. So put pen to paper now!

How to Enter

Study the two cartoons on this page: there are a number of differences between them. Once you have decided how many there are, complete the entry coupon and send it to the editorial address (see coupon). Write the number of differences that you have found on the back of the envelope. If you don't your entry will not be accepted.

The Rules

All entries must be accepted from employees of Argus Specialist Publications and CDS. This restriction also applies to employees' families and agents of the company.

The Here as Enter section forms part of the rules. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Board Games Entry Coupon

Name ....

Address ....

.... Postcode ....

Number of differences found ....

Post to: Your Commodore
Board Game Competition,
1 Golden Square,
London W1R 3AB

Closing date: 30th June 1988

DON'T GET LEFT OUT...
GET IN ON THE ACTION

COMMODORE DISK USER is a lot more than just another computer magazine. Every issue carries a diskette containing more than £30 worth of software ranging from serious programming utilities to arcade games. There are plenty of Commodore magazines on the market, but we believe that this is the first to cater for disk users of all ages and tastes.

COMMODORE DISK USER is what you have been waiting for - take out a subscription TODAY!!

T he world's greatest consulting detective is the latest hero to be recreated in Infocom's classic style. However, in the mystery of the Crown Jewels, *Sherlock Holmes* finds himself matching wits with the evil Professor Moriarty to capture him, as he deems it is best to let you, Dr Watson, take control of the case. As the game begins you know none of this as you are summoned by the loyal Mrs Hudson to help the great man out of a fearful predicament. Armed with your CBM and trusty disk drive you rush to 221B Baker Street.

Infocom packaging has become a legend in its own loading time and Sherlock is no exception to the double-sided game disk is backed up by a full instruction book, a rather helpful copy of *The London Times*, a carte-de-visite of Sherlock and Watson kits very ring and a copy of the June 17th, 1887 Diamond holding paper is packed full of useless covering everything from baths to deaths, changes of name and new publications as well as the report on the diamond. These various knick-knacks this adds to the atmosphere but means little as the game loads and you are back into the familiar surroundings of Sherlock Holmes.

As with all Infocom adventures you are faced with a series of puzzles that must be solved to reach a perfect score and finish the game, and I have no intention of spoiling this process by telling you any solutions. However, if you

get really stuck you could resort to the nowadays way out and delve into the on-line 'instructions' for a helping hand or an answer. These bring their own problems as you can spoil the game if you use them too much and they have been written to send a casual reader on wild goose chases! One thing is certain, you are on your own as although Holmes reappears he refuses to help, but you can spot points and even guide you in the right direction. This is perhaps, just as well as Holmes is at his most infuriating as he immediately pounces on a small error in the newspaper that you've already read and asks you to agree time that he is completely baffled!

This trail of mystery and confusion leads you all across Victorian, fog-bound London (some Americans still think London is like this!) where you can either walk, take a cab or, better still, one of the initial problems you have to solve before you can move calling for information but the providers (that always take you to the wrong place) and hail the most efficient cabs.

Once you've solved that you may get round to deciphering the riddles left by the Crown Jewels thief that

will lead you to a mapping problem and a series of challenges, a rendezvous, a rescue attempt and finally victory at the Palace. On route you will have to juggle useful and useless objects, find cues, then work out how to get them (this isn't always easy) and even solve the odd nautical emergency (stay after all, you are supposed to be a Doctor).

The game is puzzled a bit, especially in its rather bizarre but infuriating characters, such as a librarian that distracts you with a constant stream of very interesting facts, a back guard who is adamant that he can't be bribed and of course, the guards are.

Sherlock is an excellent game that oozes atmosphere and quality from its superb text descriptions and compelling but frustrating plot. Another one for the collection. **C B**

Touchline:
Title: *Sherlock*. Supplier: *Infocom/Activision, 23 Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2PN. Tel: 01-431 1101* Machine: *C64. Price: £29.99 (Disk Only)*

Relative

Program

We have one loose end to tie up from the first part (February '86) in which the routines to set up a file were discussed, with the FIELD details in two arrays, FIELD$ and FIELD.N. However, once the computer is switched off then those details are lost. So we have to store them on a file to be read back whenever the program is run for that particular file. For this we use the good old sequential file.

BASIC 3.5 + – HOUSEKEEPING

First of all, we need to create a unique filename for the housekeeping file which is based on the relative file but which will not interfere with it in the same disk. We put the filename NAMES in between HSE. and a lot of full stops, and then take the leftmost eight characters of the whole string, which will form the unique housekeeping filename:

```
300 n1$=LEFT$("HSE."+"....",8)
```

And write the first of the many variables we will need to update the file after each file access. We will "poke" the Variable C, and check the error channel:

```
210 dopen #7,n1$:"w":n1$,w
gosub3610
```

And write the first of the many variables we will need to update the file after each file access. We will...

```
220 print #7,c:gosub3610
```

Then the loop is opened and the FIELD AND FIELDS arrays are PRINT # ed to the file:

```
230 for a=1 to c
240 print #7,FIELD$(a):gosub3610
250 print #7,FIELD.N(a):gosub3610
260 next a
```

We ensure that the file is closed with a DCLOSE and then we GOSUB3610:

```
330 dclose:gosub3610
```

Other housekeeping variables will be added to this routine as we progress: there has to be provision made for keeping track of the number of RECORDs in the file, those deleted and so on. Notice the use of the "u" in the DOPEN statement. This is the ever-write symbol so that the housekeeping file is updated (ie the file after accesses have changed the data). You will also see that in line 240 we have made this a subroutine with the RETURN command. This is because this routine may be used for creating a file and also updating an existing file when leaving the program.

The final housekeeping routine must be an exact duplicate of the write, in reverse, ie read, otherwise you will get data input errors.

```
300 dopen #3,n1$:gosub3610
370 input #3,c:gosub3610
for a=1 to c
380 input #3,FIELD$(a):gosub3610
400 input #3,FIELD.N(a):gosub3610
420 next a
430 dclose:gosub3610
```

BASIC 2

In BASIC 2 you have to be careful with these routines. The 1541 disk drive manual has itself made an error with the routines which took me many hours to solve before I could get sequential files to work properly, so don't use the manual, use this article!

BASIC 2 – WRITE HOUSEKEEPING

```
200 n1$=LEFT$("HSE."+NAME$
...",16)
210 open2,8,2,"0:"+n1$",s,w":gosub
3610
220 print #2,c:gosub3610
230 for a=1 to c
240 print #2,FIELD$(a):gosub3610
250 print #2,FIELD.N(a):gosub3610
260 next a
300 close2
```

Don't forget to OPEN the channel 15 first, otherwise the disk error check will not work, as it needs a "NI,FILE NOT OPEN error. I think I can now

File Programming

Learn the correct method of using relative files by following our series. The second installment deals with how to write and read to records on the file

By Eric Ramsay

rely on you understanding that, and perhaps OPENing the Error channel right at the beginning of the program.

BASIC 2 — READ HOUSEKEEPING

```
190 n3$=LEFT$("N9"&"NAMES",18)
      (...)
190 open1,8,2,"0:"+n3$+",s,r"
200 input#1,r$
300 input# J,f1$(1),f2$ goodch$610
304 input# 2,FIELD$(dsn) goodch$610
306 input# 3,FIELD$(dsn) goodch$610
400 close1open15,8
450 input#15,en,em$,et,es
```

The read housekeeping would obviously only be used for reading the file. Since it is important to perform a review of that data before doing a write, we shall want the Read and Write to be in a similar Loop as the read routines.

Read and Write Records

Since you may well be using the same program to create many different files, you will want the Read and Write routines to be flexible. You might wish to have one file with three FIELDs and another with twenty in each RECORD so the best method is to use a similar Loop as to the suggested.

FIELD length input routine in the first part.

The actual method and presentation on the Data Write into RECORD is up to you, but I will suggest some routines you may find useful. Whichever method you use, it is most important that the FIELDs are the correct length to match the FIELD pointers already calculated by the program. Our suggested might make is the following. We use the same Loop as the FIELD input routine in the first part. First we increment the RECORD counter, RN, and then null the collections using, DISK$.

```
2510 rem*** read***
...
2530 rdef$="null the sort string"
```

Then we start the loop and print the screen.

```
2550 fori=1 to n:a$=""
```

and we display the details relevant to this particular FIELD.

```
2510 print"Enter FIELD ";n$
```

And restore the data with the INPUT.

```
2610 input FIELD$(i)
```

Now we add the FIELDstring to an earlier build of our string, DISK$.

```
2550 disk$= disk$ + a$
```

And continue to collect the next String until the RECORD is complete.

```
2650 next i
```

Well, so. We have relied on the user to type the FIELDs in and they can be of any length, and clearly that will not do. The FIELDs must always begin to exactly the same place in every RECORD or the display of the RECORD will not work. On the other hand, we could add a blanking routine, CHR$(0) to the end of each FIELD, but the problem there is that the FIELDs will still be of irregular lengths, and what is more, would not necessarily be created. It is necessary for every FIELD rather than a maximum of two for each RECORD. So we have to add a padding to ensure that every FIELD is exactly the right length. This is not too difficult if we declare a string full of spaces, call it PAD$ right at the beginning of the program.

```
"pad$ =pad$+ pad$:
pad$=pad$+"*"+pad$new:
disk$=
```

That should be long enough. Now we use the length of the FIELD already created to calculate how much padding is required.

```
2545 lefr(disk$(nd+pad$,FIELDL)
```

...and every FIELD in turn through the loop would be of exactly the length stored in the array FIELDL. Now when the loop has finished for every RECORD, the collection String

DISKS would be exactly the same length and we will be able to split up each DISKS for display and printing, without several Read operations.

Of course, when writing your own routine, you might wish to include details of how many characters are available in each FIELD as it is inputted. My own programs use a number stored as information in each character of the FIELD is shown in a typed and unnecessarily string too INPUT'ing when the FIELD length is matched. It also relies on logical characters from the keyboard input to permit confusion, but that is easily outside the scope of this article.

The following listing is now ready for data entry to the RECORD would be reusing. Now we come to the separators again.

BASIC 7 — Collecting the Record

If we were to separate every FIELD with a carriage return CHR$(13) then we would have to read every FIELD separately, since a READ operation would stop as soon as it reached the first carriage return character in the RECORD. This would also mean that we would lose any byte of the FIELD string, which cannot be used to extract the carriage return information. In this case it would only be useful to have a string in ten FIELDs. But we must fill the entire RECORD with the data if the FIELD pointers to be correctly stored on the DISKS. The program listing below uses the 64 and requires the separator. This would also mean that the RECORD pointers are of the separator. Below we can write out the separators as the FIELDs are typed in.

```
2565 close : 190 dim garden[190] rem
**** RECORD FIELD
**** read FIELD
```

The length of the RECORD, once remember, is stored in the Variable L.REC and has less detail if the length of the RECORD exceeds the maximum permitted in the buffer. The following code uses the 64 and requires a CHR$(13) so that the RECORD will be read in two parts. The Write Routine is not affected, and the FIELD Pointers Routine has already detected this change in the RECORD Length. (Refer to part two.)

1591 rem **** special case for L > 159

First the leftmost 159 characters of the string are put into DI$ and a relatively crazy. CHR$(13), is added:

```
2592 DI$=mid$(data$,198)
r(chr$(13)
```

Then writes it left of DISKS is put into DI$, using MID$.

```
1594 d2$=mid$(data$,160,)+chr$(13)
```

Then both DI$ and D2$ is added together and the end result is put back into DISKS, which must contain a CHR$(13) in its 160th character:

```
1595 data$=d1$+d2$
1596 return
```

The collection String is now ready for writing to the RECORD in the normal way.

BASIC 2- String Collection

The 64 gives us twice this problem, since the buffer can only handle a maximum of 88 characters in a single read from the disk. Since it is conceivable that you might have a RECORD of 254 characters, 294.00 L.REC meaning the length of the RECORD we would need two FIELD pointers separators.

When you have to provide for a separator for every FIELD it would understandably, since if the beginning is used this method, and I will give you the routines you need now. There are also a few changes, starting with the FIELD pointers provided for.

BASIC 2 - Field Pointers with...

```
2524 rem **** calculate FIELD
POINTERS
1570 rem **** read FIELD
1571 for rf = 1 to nf : rem
read FIELD
1572 if rf = 86 then 2590
1573 rf$ = field(rf)
1574 field(rf) = field(rf-1)
+len(rf$)
1575 next rf
1596 return
```

BASIC 2 - Full Record in Three Reads

Calculate FIELD Pointers for Three Reads

```
3520 rem **** calculate FIELD
POINTERS
1570 rem **** read FIELD
1571 for rf = 1 to nf
1572 rf = 84 then 2590
1573 rf$ = field(rf)
1574 field(rf) = field(rf-1)
+len(rf$)
1575 next rf
1581 rem **** special case
FIELD 84
1582 close 1 : rem field(84)
1583 field(84) = field(83)
+len(rf$)
1584 next rf
1590 return
```

String Collection for Three Reads

```
1591 rem **** special case for L > 159
1592 d1$=mid$(data$,198)+chr$(13)
1593 d2$=mid$(data$,160,)+chr$(13)
1594 d3$=mid$(data$,..)
1595 data$=d1$+d2$+d3$
1596 return
```

Both of these routines will work perfectly well, albeit slightly slower in reading from the disk. The speed of the writing operation is unaffected since in every case you must use the writing operation. I would advise you to select the method which most closely matches your own requirements. The most likely being the full-record, which also reads the FIELD pointers, and I hope you will have no problems and can still want to program a full-length RECORD in the three reads, here is my suggested solution. Of course, don't forget this is only you and your own extra method.

(cbld3)
2590 dld5=dl8=dl8=28

You might have noticed that in both the above routines, the collection strings DISK$ remains totally unaltered if you read RECORD length does not exceed the buffer intention. This programming may seem unnecessary, but it does save many bytes which are just used in reserving FIELDS when this is not strictly necessary. Owners of a C64 have a better time than those of a 64/48 but still, if the Disk routines are in place you will not be aware of this in the early stages so don't worry, trouble in collapse. The string DISK$ will act as a disk buffer to which we have gone to so much trouble to collect the 80 FIELDS into one variable.

BASIC 3.5 – Writing the Record

We can outline the routine for collecting all the FIELDs into one string, DISK$. This may or may not contain a separator but whether it does or not is up to the requirements of your specific operation. First, we have to add a line to the very beginning of the input routine:

```
2698 rem ***** enter records
*********
298 dspm # 1,(namel8,1(1re);d8,(d8
;push 3610
2600 rem ***** save record
*********
298 dspm # 1,(d8;push 3610
```

The relative file is opened. LREC it not strictly necessary now since the byte is created, you may delete it if you wish. Here I have also shown two optional statements, the n8 is the record pointer as defined by the OTS drives, and the device number, hence, I do use it too. You can open 8 by writing the file(n), We can now read or write to any record merely by accessing LREC as the parameter once again. As with writing the file, We can now read or print the record. The PRINT# and INPUT# commands are used simply by adding the channel to the FIELD collection routine you saw earlier.

```
2510 rem=n1
***** input for record
3510 dlsk$="" : rem dld buffer
3515 for n1 = ...
3519 print#nn1,;dld8
```

[2535 print "Enter FIELD";n1+1;":"
3569nn1" (FIELD$(n1)
2540 inputd8
2545 fld8=fld8+
push FIELD$(n1)
2555 next n1
3560 next n1

Then we have the check for the RECORD length.

2570 if len = 3580n8push3595:rem
***** special FIELDS

This is an important part. Here the program is assigning a variable, WREC, from the record counter RN, RN, this is from the computation RECORD routine. This is so that the same write record n8 records may be read by any part of the program. You will see the importance of this in later articles in the series.

3580 wrec=rn
2596 ...

2600 push 4080 rem ***** write
record
3610 dlsk$="" : rem dld buffer
3615 for n1 = ...
2620 print# nn1," "+"n8";rn8;
3640 pushn1+"y" /bas
2650 ...
2660 rem ***** write record
2660 goto omns whenever you place
FIELD...

4070 rem ***** write RECORD routine
4080 goto n8 ... n8;WREC ... record
4085 ...

Here the variable WREC gives the RECORD number required, in parenthesis, and the last n8 is the RECORD statement is the byte number of the RECORD to begin writing to. As we are writing the 80 records, we may not write to the RECORD, but we want has to be at the beginning:

4090 record# 8 nn8;wrec+1;1
4095 print# nn8,;dlsk$
4110 return

Do you see the simplicity of it? Because we have gone to the trouble of collecting the string DISK$ together we can simply declare the RECORD routine and write the entire string to the RECORD. This is very quick, especially as the 1571. Even when all the FIELDS are separated with CHR$(13) the RECORD can still be

written in one operation. The only difference will come when it needs to be Read.

BASIC 2 – Writing the Record

A slight change must be made to the routine for the 64. The essential details are there already, but we have to remember the record pointers routine, so the write record routine itself will be different.

```
2498 rem ***** enter records
*********
2598 dspm # 1,(d8 ... push3610
```

The relative file has already been opened, so even in BASIC 2 the record length does not need to be specified. Here we can delete whatever string collection routine may be required, either the read in byte or the FIELD$ separation method:

```
2510 rem=n1
2515 for n1 = ...
2525 print "Enter FIELD";n1+1;":"
3569nn1" (FIELD$(n1)
2535 inputd8
2540 push FIELD$(n1) =
Ssdspm ****;FIELD$(n1)
2545 next n1
2555 next n1
3560 dld8=dld8+
push FIELD$(n1)
2560 ...
```

The program branches from the input routine to the write record routine. At last we are writing something to a RECORD!

```
4070 rem ***** write RECORD routine
4080 record#8 1,(wrec+1;1
4095 print# nn8,;dlsk$
4110 return
```

If the end is there has been used we need the check for record length:

```
2563 if len = 87 then goto43592
2586 wrec=rn
2596 ...
2600 push 4080 rem ***** write
record
3610 dlsk$="" : rem dld buffer
3620 print# nn1," "+"n8";rn8;
2640 pushn1+"y" /bas
2650 next n1
2660 goto omns whenever you place
FIELD...
```

BASIC 2 – Record Write routine

This routine may be used from anywhere in the program, providing that the variable WREC is declared as the desired RECORD number to access. First we obtain the high and lo bytes of the record, using the routine already explained in part 3

4070 rem *** 64 Write RECORD
routine
4080 op=ra
4083 gosub4114   rem *** get
Record Pointers
I return the record pointer po-inted
in position, twice for safety, using the
command channel:
4086 print#15,"p"+chr$(101)+
chr$(r)+chr$(rh)+
chr$(b)+chr$(b)
4090 print# 15,"p"+chr$(101)+
chr$(r)+chr$(rh)+
chr$(b)+chr$(b)
    And the relformatted RECORD string
is written to the RECORD:
4100 print # 5,dt$ gosub 3610
4110 return

You will set the count rule following
there the pointers are placed by the
command channel, and the actual data
is read from the RECORD using the
file OPENed. (You did remember to
open the error channel, didn't you?):

The Write RECORD routine we're
always place the DISK$ on the
RECORD correctly, you must not try
to mix the different placing routines
or FIELD pointers routines. Each of
them, either the three read cousin or
the FIELD separation technique gives
different results for LRBT, and mixing
the different placing positions will result
in a %-INTERVUN IN RECORD
ERROR. You may check at any time
the string collection that the whole
program is setting things up correctly,
where the RECORD is set up right, and
then type in direct mode:

?k$

You will then see the RECORD string
as it is about to be written on the file.
Now, text the LENgth of the
RECORD Collection String. Again in
direct mode, type:

?len(k$)

The number that is printed should
be the Variable LRECL (or even
if you are using the BASIC 2 Read
in these section. If is less than that
then you are wasting file space and
the FIELD pointers are not
arranged correctly. If they are equal
to or greater than L = (LRBC the
data is too long for the RECORD and
the program readies the Write Record
Method.

**Record Read + BASIC 3.5+ 2 Read
Method**

Now we come to the routine which

will read the RECORD, which is not
quite as simple as the write routine.
I have written the routine required
for either the two read method or the
FIELD separated method, whichever
you have decided to use for your own
application. The warning however, that
once having decided to use one or the
other, you must stay with that method
throughout the program, using only
those routines which apply.

If you are using the read method
or FIELD separated method then you
will use all sorts of errors and you will
be left with garbage on the screen when
it comes to displaying the RECORDs.

To read the RECORD I have
assumed that you have OPENed the
file. Don't forget that either OPENed
a relative file may easily be read and
written to. I assume for the method
that you are reading the file near read
earlier, so:

You must have declared a variable,
RREC as the RECORD number you
wish to read, in exactly the same way
as for the write routine. Again in
direct mode, type:
the next articles I will suggest many
routines to make the display of the
RECORDs to a friendly and efficient,
but for now I shall use a simple request
for input:

4150 read#5,dt$ gosub 3610
    return

2730 print(descript)
2740 input"Which Record to
Input";h
2730 ra=h
2760 return
2770 dt$="":goto# 4130

   At this point a RECORD number
has been INPUTted, checked to make
sure that the routine using the RECORD
and counter, RN, and then the RREC
has been declared. Now we come to
the actual routine that will ...
as already been OPENed so we go
straight to the read.

4120 rem *** read record routine
4125 op=ra
4130 record # 5,(res),1 gosub 3610
4140 record # 5,(res),1 gosub 3610
    The file pointer has positioned the
read write head to the correct
RECORD number. Now the entire
RECORD is INPUTted into the
variable dt$ and the new file pointers
is RETURN from that the pointers
are used correctly.

the first 160 characters of the record
would have been read from the file
so we detect the length of the
RECORD string LRFC:

4152 dl=s :190len return

If LREC shows that the RECORD
is within the limits of the buffer, then
the routine RETURNS. If not, a
further INPUT is required, which
is why I have called this the two Read
Method. The RECORD pointer now
places the read write head on the 161st
character of the RECORD, since the
pointers and moved along with each
INPUT. Then INPUTs the next 90
characters into d1$:

4154 record # 5,(res),161 gosub 3610
4156 record # 5,(res),161 gosub 3610
4158 input# 5,d1$:gosub 3610

   Now the entire RECORD is
contained in the two strings, and they
are simply concatenated, (joined
together) to make the full string. The
CHR$(13) is no longer part of the
string because it cannot be INPUTted
within a string:

4159 dat$=dat$+d1$
4160 return

**BASIC 2 — Record Number
Acquisition**

Using exactly the same routine to
obtain the desired read as above:

2730 print(descript)
2740 input"Which Record to
Input";h
2730 ra=h
2760 return
2770 dt$="":goto# 4130

2730 print(descript)
2740 input"Which Record to
Input";h
2730 ra=h
2760 return
2770 dt$="":goto# 4130

... except that for BASIC 2 we need
to obtain the RECORD pointers first,
in line 2760, again op=ra, as the
chosen RECORD number variable
will then calculate the RECORD
pointers as in the write routine. Since
it RETURNs from that the pointers
are used correctly.

BASIC 2 — Record 3 - Read Method

We now have to program our own

version of the RECORD READ routine for BASIC 2 and the fill buffer:

```
4120 rem ****Read RECORD
Routine - BASIC 2
4130 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
go2b 3610
4135 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
4140 input # 3,dta$:gosub 3610
4141 dta$ = lb$len return
```

Here is can be a RECORD at one of the end of the new CMRS statement at the end of the input pointer lines. This is the effort, just the same as the last number in the RECORD # statement in Basic 7. Since the 80th character now is chr$(71), the next character pointer has been taken out by the CMRS80 so the effort

```
4140 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
4145 input # 3,dta$:gosub 3610
4160 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
```

If the read operation is over, we add the two strings together and RETURN.

```
4145 dta = (leadwalk)+disk)$
415 return
```

If not then we read the 3 String:

```
4140 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
4145 input # 3,dta$:gosub 3610
4160 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
4165 input # 3,b$:gosub 3610
```

And then add all the strings together to make up the whole Disk.

```
4165 dta$=dta$+b$
4170 return
```

When the routine has RETURNed into your main program the whole of the RECORD which you have chosen to save its value is in the columns return. DISK To see it you may write the full run.

```
4790 print disk$
```

and what the program has read will be displayed. However for processing, unlike the FIELD separated routine the values are not combined but the DiskS into the array. DISP$G

Here it is:

```
4170 rem **** read records into
FIELDS
4180 forw:Xwcolka$lowoll*
mar$lodsk$:Dre:1$a.
4181:0 ka$ .ra:wa
4190 return
```

We will be using this routine extensively in the next of the series.

In the next article I will show how to program the RECORD display routines. But before we leave this article, we have to program the FIELDS separated method for these who decided against the two or those combined.

BASIC 1 - Fields Separated

If you have decided to use the FIELD separation method of writing the RECORD, you will need a different set of READ routine programs. This is a loop; the same loop as we saw before, but the 2 so that it will loop for each field one by one, and so that each and every one of the FIELDS is separated one by one and handled by the software so that it can be read at the first FIELD.25.

What we have to do is loop the read routine so that it returns to the read routine each time. To do this, the first value of the FIELD POINTER routine has to loop to different. The loop to go to different. The loop to go to a read FIELD, which we have got is different. It has a character represented by the FIELD routine and the FIELD. In actual fact, the routine is different.

```
4170 rem **** BASIC 1.1 FIELD
Separate Read RECORD
4125 dstk$="" for u = 1 to v
4130 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
4135 input # 3,f:a:rd:dst:gosub
3610
4140 record # 3,(rec);dst:dst:gosub
3610
4145 rem **** FIELD Separate
Read RECORD
4150 return
```

I am sure this routine is clear to you, but in case it isn't I'll explain it. First we open the RECORD on the FIELD loop. Then the BASIC 7 FIELD Loop. Then the RECORD FIELD statements not only select the correct RECORD but also select the position from which to read it, which is contained in the FIELD POINTER array, FPO$). The FIELD choices read into the array DISP$G. For this routine you will need to DIMension this array in a suitable line at the beginning of the program.

```
Xaa.ldlkgev
```

or you will get a program error 'BAD SUBSCRIPT ERROR' which would not show itself until you selected more than 11 (0-10) FIELDS.

Additionally, you are now not able to display the RECORD using the statement PRINT DISK$; you have to use a Loop:

```
4*for:wut print disp$[a]:wcra
```

instead. Much more to come on Display Routines next in the series.

BASIC 2 - Field Separation Read Routine

The general rules of the BASIC 2 Field Separation Read technique is very similar. In fact, you should actually be able to work this out for yourself, but in case you are not yet a programmer, here it is:

```
4170 rem **** BASIC 2 FIELD
Separate Read RECORD
BASIC 2
4125 dstk$=""
4130 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
4135 print # 15,"p"+chr$(9b)+
chr$(rl)+chr$(rh)
gosub 3610
4140 input # 3,dist:gosub 3610
4150 record # 3,rec:gosub 3610
4155 return
```

In the next of the series, I will give you routines to enable your programs to display, sort and print the RECORDS all inside a proper RECORDS mode. Still to come in the series are double the most fascinating aspect of relative filing - sorting, deleting and searching.

Strike Fleet

Strike Fleet puts you on the bridge of the flagship of a taskforce sent to patrol nine warzones of the world. At your command you organise frigates, battleships and cruisers, armed with the latest missiles and defences as you recreate the battles of the future. Control actions in the dangerous waters of the Persian Gulf and the global warfare at the outbreak of World War III.

In all, ten scenarios are included on the double-sided game disk which is crammed into the disk box along with a comprehensive manual which leaves you in no doubt as to the basic scenario guide that takes you from single ship patrols in the Persian Gulf, through combined ship and Spectrum-style bursts in the Falklands to full-scale 16 ship battles in the Atlantic.

Once the game has loaded you are presented with a screen through which you can select one of nine scenarios. When you are satisfied with your choice, press the button to scroll through the last WWIII scenarios with the survivors of one mission forming the fleet for the next. Since these missions are only for those accustomed to losing ships and men a save-game facility means you won't be starting from scratch after suffering a mauling in the Atlantic.

The next screen, the shipyard, is where you select your forces for the mission by spending points on different classes of warship, helicopters and defence systems. Depending on how much cash you are given to play with, you can build a fleet of up to four vessels, a quarter of the cost of a Kiel Cuthbert-armed frigate serving you with escorts, torpedoes, defence systems and two helicopters. Once you've chosen the ships of your command it's time to set sail into battle.

During the battle or patrol that follows you will see two scenarios that are loaded separately from disk but need not concern you. The first screen, the plan map of the target zone, is displayed on the command screen on which you can pinpoint your location, examine the map and plot a course to your destination, launch and store status. Once these are set you can switch over to the navigation and weapons systems.

When your screen selected (Fire Control [CFC] screen which consists of a map of the battle zone and waters with your formation, destination, target and store status, there are a range of different views to choose from depending on which of the eight weapons or radar...

...and the missile goes to its target. Now, only choices actions will see you through. You can target data to identify enemy aircraft, ships and submarines you can combat with torpedoes, guns and missiles.

...be protected by the other parts of your fleet, you must keep a check on the bridge of these vessels as you don't want your heroic efforts to fight off enemy planes, ships and submarines to go to waste only to find yourself without air cover or anti-submarine defences.

Commanding a task force is a demanding business and to be successful you must know what to expect from your enemy and use your ship's abilities to overcome the defence. If you're expecting any submarine you must keep a regular check on the sonar screen as the enemy aircraft may pay you a surprise attack.

Anybody, whose played *Silent Service* or *Up Periscope* will know the damage a single sub can do to a convoy. The best defence against submarines is to destroy them before they can fire their torpedoes. Keep an eye on the radar to send out your helicopters that are equipped with sonar to find the subs and then torpedo or depth charge them to destroy them.

Unfortunately only a task force with a sub hunt and as you have to watch the skies for attacking aircraft, and have your sonar ships deal with the incoming submarines. But if the enemy get too close to the southwest missiles. Unless you've got regular helicopter patrols in the right place in the right time, the first real hint of a submarine attack may be a torpedo exploding against the hull of one of your ships. You then see the final seconds of one of the most-watch craft by cut down by a direct aircraft hammering of torpedoes.

As the enemy gets closer your screen, close up the conning tower and the escort vessels fire their guns and launch missiles at the approaching craft as you race to get out of its sights and fire your guns. With an eye on the enemy missile range, Work as fast you can switch off the auto-pilot and steer your ships through the thick of the battle you will often find yourself with a single ship...

Now, only choices actions will see you through. You can target data to identify enemy aircraft, ships and submarines you can combat with torpedoes, guns and missiles.

Strike Fleet is an incredibly tense game in which you'll endlessly have to assess the enemy ready to strike out at any target within missile range, no need to save hunt the raging menace which threatens to send your fleet to the bottom of the seas.

Checklist:

Title: Strike Fleet. **Supplier:** Electronic Arts, Langley Business Centre, Langley. Nr Slough, Berks. SL3 8YN. **Tel** 0753 46465. **Machine:** C64. **Price** £14.95 (Disk only).

Super Disk Utilities

Stretch your 128 drives to the limit

By Fred Kapp

A brief! An opportunity to put your 1571 through its paces. Super Disk Utilities (SDU) from now on!) is a menu driven package for the 128 (in 80 column mode) and the 1571 and 1581 at the serious disk user. Although if you want to get to grips with the inner workings of your drive, you'll probably find this package invaluable. All the utilities will work with or without a second drive, and some will even work with a 1581! A little experimentation will show how!

Super Dl Utilities is basically the same package with several enhancements for use with the new Commodore 1581 a 3½in drive. These of you not familiar with MS-DOS and C P/M disk formats are unlikely to have come across partitioning before. Partitioning enables you to set up reserved areas and sub-directories within a disk — a tidy file window. Saving up and controlling these partitions is worthy of an article or two, so future SD Utilities will be of immense use here. The Super SD Utilities menu on both 1½″ and 3½″ disks, leaving you with the option of forming the program from either 1571 or 1581 drives. Aside from these, Super SD Utilities has many other features in Super Disk Utilities.

There seems to be little around to compare this package to apart from Big Blue Reader, reviewed in our April '88 issue, so you'll have to judge it on its own merits. On the surface, things look very slick – an observation confirmed by more detailed examination. The main menu sensibly offers analysis of the type of operation you wish to perform, namely disk and file-copying facilities, CP/M utilities, disk editor, DOS utilities, drive monitor and RAM editor. By selecting one of these options will drop you into the appropriate local menu.

A third are hardly tutorial would seem appropriate here. The top line displays the selected source and destination drive numbers, as well as the menu title so you know where you are. Most of the sub menus display prompts and messages and the bottom line displays drive status and current disk format. The screen layout is used as a general display area, depending on the particular utility in use. Let's look at the various parts.

File Copy: A multi-pass disk copier, with a novel feature which allows the transfer of data between 1571 and 1541 disks. It's not a nibbler, so will not copy protected disks, but what is handy for preparing backups, as you're using the same drive or two, using the same drive or other.

File Copy: creates individual files (CBM format only) in another disk. Up to 58 files can be copied at once by nominating the buffer holding about 238 sectors at a time. At the end of each copy, the directory is displayed and the files to be copied are marked.

Both file copy utilities read the source disk fast enough, but it does seem slow when it comes to writing.

CP/M Utilities: probably the most useful part of the package. SDU allows you to examine the format of CP/M and MS-DOS disks and format MFM and GCR disks to just about any configuration. Kaypro, Osborne, IBM and Kaypro formats are all recognised. Also, you can format GCR disks for use with CP M on the 128.

DOS Utilities: all the usual CBM DOS commands (new, scratch, validate, etc) are easily actioned from this screen, too, or omitting directory headers which can easily be achieved. "Safe Erase" will wipe a complete disk – like night scrub a bit tedious, but you can use this option to remove errors the more normal formatting, rather than formatting the disk!

Disk Editor: to expand – this section is not for the faint-hearted, valuable data can be permanently lost as the

touch of a key – use the Disk Copy utility to backup first! Having got that out of the way, this is a pretty powerful sector editor for GCR (CBM) format disks. Using the disk editor, you can pull individual bytes off a disk, read the sectors and edit either in Hex or in ASCII before sending the updated sector back to the disk.

I must say I've seen more sophisticated sector editors for the C64 (541 (check the directory editor published in *Commodore Disk User* a while back, 'nuff said!) but it minimally means there's anything wrong with this one. The disk editor can be used to edit directory filenames, repair corrupted files, or just customise system messages (this can be great fun).

Drive Monitor: this works the same way as the disk editor, but on the drive's memory. The internal workings of your drive no longer need be a mystery. Every tool and routine is available for your scrutiny – both RAM and ROM. Memory can be examined and edited (Hex or ASCII) a page at a time, with all the useful

information in front of you. Need I say the page is automatically loaded into the 128's RAM, you can use the M/C monitor to disassemble it.

7k Writer: this is complementary to the Drive Monitor section and you can flip between Drive Monitor and 7k Writer without going back through the main menu. 7k Writer lets you edit monitor and write it to the drive's memory. This is probably not something you'll want to do every day, but if your really want to explore the inner hidden secrets of the 1571, this section is vital.

Having looked at what SDU has to offer, I am begin to describe what it's like to use. I ran into a couple of bugs in commercial software, but here I'm please to report that my use of SDU this section is vital.

There are occasions when the drive can't read a disk, but keep trying anyway – the only way out is to power down and start again. The manual warns something to be desired, too. Although there's a print option for the Disk Editor, Drive Monitor and 7k Writer don't permit disassembly to printer. However, it's a simple matter to drop into Basic from the M/C monitor and reenter after typing OPEN4,4 and CMD4:MONITOR.

All disassembly will now be sent to printer, not the screen. As this is such an important operation, I feel this should have been explained in the manual, if not included in the program! I would also liked to have seen a recommended reading list for those of you who wish to go deeper into disks and drives.

In conclusion:

Product: Super Disk Utilities.
Supplier: Free Spirit Software.
Distributed by: Financial Systems Software, 3rd Floor, Ardwin House, St. Mary's Street, Worcester. Price: £24.95. Machine: C128 and 1571.

Sector Editor

Examine and edit the contents of your Commodore 1541 disks

By Mike Fulton

Summary of Commands

READ T/S:	Displays sequential sector in the current mode.
WRITE T/S:	Writes current sector upon verification.
NEXT T/S:	Displays next sector in current file.
LAST T/S:	Displays previous sector in current file.
HEX DUMP:	Switches display between current modes.
PRINT T/S:	Outputs display to device in current mode.
EDIT T/S:	Allows editing of sector on screen.
ASCII/HEX:	Displays current disk status.
TRACE FILE:	Displays remaining sectors in file.
ABORT:	Performs immediate cold start.

Command Details:

READ T/S: Selecting this option causes the cursor to appear beneath the track indicator. A two digit input in Hex is expected, however if the current display is correct then a return will input the value shown. Cursor controls may be used to edit but delete is not available. The same chain of events is repeated for the sector number and assuming that the values are legal, the requested sector is displayed on the screen in the current display mode (Hex or ASCII).

Write T/S: This command will display a moving message near the base of the screen, requesting confirmation of the write command. Upon receiving the correct key press the displayed sector is written to the disk. If any other key is depressed then the write routine is terminated and the program awaits a command.

NEXT T/S: This command uses the next sector in the file to be displayed in the same mode as the current one. If the sector on display is the last in the file, i.e. it has no valid co-ordinates in bytes 1 and 2, then the program is halted.

LAST T/S: This command may only be used if a file has been followed with a NEXT T/S command, and will

only trace back as far as the sector from which the NEXT T/S command was initiated. A displayed sector returns the previous sector in the current file and must be attempted with NEXT T/S without resetting the original point.

ASCII/HEX: When this command is selected the display mode is reversed, i.e. if display is in ASCII it is changed to Hex and if in Hex then it is changed to ASCII.

PRINT T/S: This command causes the screen display to be output to a printer (device 4). Both display modes are catered for. On entry, display modes are separated by commas.

EDIT T/S: This command allows full editing of the sector on display, in either mode. Display mode may not be changed during edit, delete done and home are disabled. To exit this mode...

ERROR CH>: This command displays the status of the disk drive. The result is displayed beneath the sector display. Any key will erase the status display and await the next command.

TRACE FILE: When this command is selected, the program requires an input, to determine the output device (screen or printer). This is displayed on the appropriate line, and expects a response of P or S. If a valid response is input then the start sector is requested and all remaining sectors in the file are listed. If the display is to the screen then a key press is required to return to the normal display.

ABORT: This brings an interrupt driven cold start and is needed for emergency use only.

Getting it all in

Sector Editor is presented as a Basic program. This should be typed in using the Basic Loader (see LISTING for more details.

The Sector Editor program is actually written in machine code, the Basic Loader just being used to POKE the necessary code into memory.

Once POKEd into memory the program resides from $C000 to $C8FF (51200 to 51967). The program is started with a SYS call of 51200 (SYS 51200). To SCFFF (C5270 to 52287) is also used by the program.

CatSort

Do you have hundreds of disks and can never find the program that you want? Then this program may be for you

By Stuart Cooke

```
       C64 REVIEW

 +-----------------------------------+
 | MUSIC   TO SEARCH ON      38/23/88 |
 |                                    |
 |      THIS DISK BELONGS TO          |
 |        YOUR COPYFROM               |
 |                                    |
 | MUSIC   TO SEARCH ON      38/23/88 |
 |                                    |
 |      THIS DISK BELONGS TO          |
 |        YOUR COPYFROM               |
 |                                    |
 | MUSIC   TO SAVE ON        38/23/88 |
 |                                    |
 |      THIS DISK BELONGS TO          |
 |        YOUR COPYFROM               |
 |                                    |
 | MONEYBLUE.DAT    LABEL/LONGER      |
 | FULLYCOPY.MENU   FULLCORE          |
 +-----------------------------------+
```

I there is one thing that really infuriates me it's people who have no connection with television. You have the type I mean, all colour-coded and, a neat list of all programs catalogued on the disk written neatly on the label? Should you ask them for a program they can go straight to the precise disk, even though they may have more than 300 disks in their collection – sickening of course.

Now, don't get me wrong, it's not that I shirk the type of person that can be organised, it's just that I'd love to be able to get my disk collection into a similar state, but even after months of trying my disk collection still consists of disks with no labels, disks with cryptic labels and disks with labels but nothing on them. Finding a specific program is a work of art never mind the amount of time it takes to go through the 20 or so T-know it's on a disk with no label? Or, to put it another way.

Or rather, that was the case until I got my hands on SuperCat, a disk catalogue system.

There have been many disk cataloguing programs in the past, few have been published none in this magazine. Personally, I've quite often found that they did not do everything that I required or were a bit difficult to use. So, was I impressed with SuperCat, is this program that you have been waiting for?

Getting Started

To use SuperCat to its full capability you need the program disk plus two blank ones. One of these becomes the Master Directory Disk (MDD) from now on), where information on each disk is stored. The second disk becomes the CatSort disk, where an alphabetical list of your disks is stored. Up to 648 disks or 7000 titles can be stored, this should be enough for your average person's disk collection.

When you first start SuperCat there are four main sections, which I will deal with in further detail into. These are:

- Master Directory Builder
- Utilities
- CatSort
- Print Routines

One other point worth mentioning before I expand on the above is that the program makes extensive use of them. It whilst you start the program you must enter the date, this date is written in your MDD so that you have a permanent record of when you last used the program as well as being able to keep all of your disks in date order on the directory disk.

Master Directory Builder

This is the section of the program that allows you to input disks. Before you can do this for the first time you must set a number of defaults so that the SuperCat program knows a bit about the computer set up that you are using.

Options exist for using one 1541 drive, two 1541 drives or a dual disk drive. If you have more than one slot drive but less than the maximum of disk drives you can enter the name of disk drive number 9 if you have an extra disk drive.

Each disk or the master directory is given a number by which it is referred. In the set-up option you have the option of writing this number by one of two ways, the first option is for SuperCat to increment the numbers by one each time, the second option is for those who already have catalogued disks and want to continue using the original numbers. When you have catalogued a disk and save it, the next disk to be read starts from where you left off.

The way in which SuperCat reads in disks and identifies them is quite easy. You only see printed on the screen the disk's header, from here you can perform a number of functions on the disk. The first option and the main use you will use SuperCat for is to read the disk's own directory into memory. Once the directory is read in you can alter the disk's name if required, it's even possible to write a title for the whole disk. If this is carried out, SuperCat reads the whole disk with, the directory, this is the part that takes the time.

```
SUPERCAT MASTER DIRECTORY          SEQUENTIAL DISK LISTING        08/03/88


* YS MARCH 88        VC      1MF FREE      09/23/88    DISK NO. 001 *

ASSEMBLER.DAT    LABEL LINKER    MULTIDUMP-PROB1    MUSICUBE
WEDORA.BOOT


* 14 SEPTEMBER 198      VC      41F FREE      09/09/88    DISK NO. 002 *

1/0 TRACK READ                                        COPIER
EDITOR-SCROLLER    FLASH ROUTINE    HEXORIENTER II    M/C SAVE CALC
M/C SAVE SUB       SCROLLER-DEMO    SYNTAX CHECKER
```

it's somewhat software.

The last option in set-up is telling the program what sort of printer you are using. Only printers that use the normal Commodore serial port are supported.

Once you have the defaults set up getting information about your disks onto the catalog is a breeze. Simply place the disk in the drive and wait for the directory to load once prompted. As soon as the directory is finished the disk contents will be displayed on screen, the format of the display being reminiscent of a New Cat copies. It's up to you to select exactly which titles you place on the MDO, after all if you have a program called Disk Editor and it has two more options called 'Part 1' and 'Part 2' you may want to put the actual program title onto the MDO.

Various options are available at this stage including the ability to change the name of the disk in the drive, you can write the new name to the disk. You can change the name of the file but this is only achieved within SuperCat, it is not written to the actual disk.

Once you have a number of disks entered on the MDO you can start to analyse the information gathered. When the directory builder you have the option to list on the screen the contents of any disk simply by entering the disk number, this number is either assigned by SuperCat or you can tell it. When the directory builder adds the new disk to the MDO so the maximum condition is that the problem that you now have is remembering which disk was which disk number, SuperCat will make this easy through its various print options.

Utility Functions

Selecting this option gives you facilities for updating the master directory. This is the same as entering a disk in the master directory mentioned above, however, the information comes from the MDO not from the original disk. Once you have the selected disk on screen you can change the name of files, delete them and even enter new files by hand, the quickest way of keeping your disk library up to date.

This section of the program also gives you the ability to search the CatSort Disk. As already mentioned this is a disk, created from one of the screen options, it contains an alphabetical list of all files on the MDO.

To use this option, simply enter a search string when prompted and wait for a list of the disks containing that program to appear. You can even enter wild cards. For example entering DISK* as the search string will cause a list of all the disks containing a program that starts with the name DISK to appear on screen. Note, only the disk number and matching filename appears on screen, not the list of all the files on each disk.

Catalog Sort

This is where you create the CatSort disk. Each time that you have updated your MDO the CatSort disk needs to be recreated from scratch so that the file contents are up to date.

Creating this disk can take some time as well as a large amount of disk swapping, unless you have more than two disk drives you will need to

recreate this disk only when you have entered a significant number of new disks into the master directory.

Printing Reports

There are numerous options for printing out reports. Should you have a 'basic' printer that doesn't support

```
SUPERCAT MASTER DIRECTORY
ALPHABETICAL LISTING

NAME              DISK

1/0 TRACK READ     002
ANIMATOR           002
ASSEMBLER.DAT      001
BUGGOTEN           002
CATALOG            003
COPIER             002
COPIER             002
DISK CAT           002
DOODLE             003
EDITOR-SCROLLER    002
FLASH ROUTINE      002
HEXORIENTER II     002
LABEL LINKER       001
LIST               003
LOW RES COPY       003
LOW RES DEMO       003
M/C SAVE SUB       002
MODEMBLER.DAT      001
MUSICUBE           001
MULTIDUMP-PROB1    001
SUDOKU             003
SCROLLER-DEMO      002
SYNTAX CHECKER     002
TAPE HEADER        003
WEDORA.BOOT        001
```

subscript, etc., you will probably only use the print options within the program. If however, you have a printer that is capable of special print functions such as an Epson or a Star then you will be able to use separate print programs outside SuperCat to enable you to get more information out of any text. It is important to note that if you do want to use the external print files then you will have to alter the listing program yourself so that they suit your printer. This program can be used freely and anyone around with a small amount of machine skill have no problems.

The difference between using the internal print options and external print routines become apparent when you realise that you can get a lot of DY titles per page using the condensed print of the external files rather than 20 odd for the standard print version. All of the print options should be self-explanatory.

Some examples of printouts are included with this article so that you can see what is possible. The print options are as follows:

* Print list of disks in numerical order.
* Print disk numbers not used.
* Print disks in date order.
* Print alphabetical program names.
* Print disk headers in numerical order.
* Print a table with message "this disk belongs to...".
* Print one label with an a program title on it.
* Print as many labels for a disk as required to print all titles.

If you use the external print files then you can get up to 30 program titles on each disk label, the option that I have used to print labels for my disks. I would want example of this that I have used the DY titles that I use to print out for me.

All labels have details about the disk name, ID, date it was catalogued and the number of titles printed and each program title.

Final Thoughts

Since starting to use SuperCat my experience with my disk drive has changed dramatically. No longer do

I overwork it trying to find a disk that contains a program that I'm sure was called "XXXYY". Now all I have to do is look at the disk names by their names and go straight to the DY title that I want.

The disk is easy to find as it has a neat label on it with the disk number and the name of the file on it.

Some people may be put off using a system such as SuperCat because of the amount of time taken to set it up to start with. Don't be, it only took me about two hours to enter all of my old disk cataloguing to input all of my 864 disks and it certainly was worth it.

In my opinion all Commodore disk drives should go on strike until their owners buy them a copy of this program!

Trackline:

Name:	SuperCat. Supplier: Financial Systems Software, 2nd Floor, Adelaide House, St. Marys Street, Worcester, WR1 1HA. Tel: 0366 71027.
Price:	£6.99.
Machine:	C64 + at least 1 disk drive.

Software for Sale

If you think that some of our programs looks very interesting, but you can't afford the time to type it in then our software service will help you out

It's three o'clock in the morning. You sit at the computer keyboard having just finished a marathon typing session entering one of the superb programs from *Your Commodore*. Your fingers reach for the keyboard and press the letters R, U and N. You press RETURN, sit back and nothing happens.

Everyone has probably faced this problem. Where it does happen it's a matter of spending hours searching through the program for a typing mistake. No matter how long you look or how many people help you, you are usually guessing that at least one little bug slips through unnoticed.

The *Your Commodore* Software Service makes available all of the programs from each issue on both cassette and disk at a price of 50.00 for disk and £4.00 for cassette. So only the documentation for the programs is supplied with the software since it is all available in the relevant magazine. Should you not have the magazine then back issues are available from the following address:

INFINITY LTD, 5 River Park Estate, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1HL.
Tel. (04427) 76641

Please contact this address for prices and availability.

The Disk

Programs on the disk will also be supplied as totally working screens, i.e. when possible we will not use Basic Loaders then making use of the programs more easily. Unfortunately at the moment we cannot duplicate C24 and Plus 4 cassettes. However programs for these machines will be available on the disk.

What programs are available?

At the top of each article you will find a strip containing the article type, C64 Program etc. So that you can see which programs are available on which format, you will also find a couple of symbols after this strip. The symbols has the following meaning.

The symbols means that the program is available on cassette.

These programs are available on disk.

Please Note

Since the programs supplied on cassette are total working versions of the program, we do not put disk only programs on tape. There is no point in placing a program that requires loading from disk on to tape.

JANUARY 1988

80 CHARACTER PRINTOUT — Give your C64 80 character printout.

QUESTIONNAIRE 1 — Accsdotlion quiz generator for the C64.

ACROYD'S SAGA — A mathematical educational adventure (C64).

ENLARGING THE 64 — Create large characters on the C64.

JAZZMAN UP SUBROUTINES — Improve your C64's INPUT routine.

Cut TAPE SYSTEM 64 — Provide menu driven access to your C64 cassettes for the C64.

ORDER CODE
DISK V CASS88 £6.00
TAPE VCASS88 £4.00

FEBRUARY 1988

ACROYD'S SAGA — See January 1988

ULTRA FUNCTIONS 64 — A selection of useful functions to add to your C64 function keys.

AMIGA DASH — Improved INPUT routine for C128 users.

ADVENTURE KIT — The parser module for our DIY adventure series.

MORSE CODE TUTOR — Teach yourself morse code with this program on the C64.

GET THE POINT — A simple joystick driven painter for C64 users.

ORDER CODE
DISK VCASS88 £6.00
TAPE VCASS88 £4.00

These programs are available on disk.

MARCH 1988

LABEL LINKER – Create a library of C120 programs on C120 cassette disk only.

MULTI DUMP – Screen dump for C64 owners.

WEDS II – Commented program from February 1988. Complete program on the disk or tape.

MUSHILOAD – Run music with your program/tool C64.

PLUS/4 ASSEMBLER – A machine code assembler for Plus/4 users (available on disk only).

ORDER CODE
DISK 51MAR88 £6.00
TAPE 51MAR88 £4.00

APRIL 1988

AUTO START MAKER – Give your disk programs that professional look by making them auto-start (C64 Disk Only).

CLEAR WITH BASIC – A series of short Basic routines illustrating various ways of clearing your C64.

TABULATE – Format your unformatted output on your C64.

Commodore Modem Revealed – A small program showing how you can write your own programs for your Commodore modem.

MAKING GEOS BRITISH – Have you ever wished that GEOS had a £ sign and that GEODex had British addresses then alter your GEOS programs to do just that. C64 Disk Only.

ORDER CODE
DISK 52MAR88 £6.00
TAPE 51MAR88 £4.00

EXTENDED BACKGROUNDS – Alter the background colour for every screen line – a still display of 256 characters on C64.

CUBSSPEED – Transfer your input programs from C64 tape or disk to turbotape.

ORDER CODE
DISK 53APR88 £6.00
TAPE 53APR88 £4.00

MAY 1988

DESIGNER – A powerful drawing package for C64.

80 COLUMN VIDEO – A simple 80 column character designer for the C128 plus disk.

CHARACTER GRABBER – Grab your favourite C64 character sets and use them in your own programs.

ADVENTURE KIT 7 – The fifth part of our continuing library of C64 adventure writing routines.

FEYS STAPPER – Store four sets of function key definitions with this handy utility.

SCREENDRAW 40 – A powerful C64 drawing and background utility.

SLEEVE NOTER – for producing your own scrolling backdrops (disk only).

ORDER CODE
DISK 54MAY88 £6.00
TAPE 54MAY88 £4.00

Cassettes or disks are available from March 1986. Please ring the editorial office (01-437-0626) for details of them.

First Steps

Take some good advice and you'll dispell those bugged listing blues forever

By Norman Doyle

"None of your listings ever work?"

This is typical of the subtle approach of some of the readers who ring us here. These are the ones that get fed up of abuse but eventually a snap and bawl! Normally the task isn't out of ours but results from a lack of understanding of debugging techniques. To help here are some of the common complaints and their solutions.

"How can I type in all of the parts of this program? The line numbers are the same and just overwrite one another."

There are many reasons why a program can have several parts to it. For example, there might be a Basic loader program which calls on a machine code subroutine and has userdefined graphics. It could have been writen as one program but the snag is this uses the code and graphics have been poked in to memory. These substantial parts of the program are then redundant and can slow down the operation of the rest of the program. The solution is to use three programs. The first pokes the graphics in place, the second positions the code and the third is the real program.

The three programs look almost identical because they are just made of data statements with a few short lines of 'real' program. Typically, both programs then have on them a neat header that reads: save a poke command which clusters the data into memory.

You then repeat the procedure for program two and then, after saving and testing, program three is typed in and saved. If using a cassette as the only device, the three programs should follow one another in the correct order on the tape.

Assuming that everything has been typed in correctly, the program is ready to run. This means that the first program is loaded out first. Once this program executes it takes out the code and the next.

fill this area with numbers which fixate the machine code part of the program. Once the program finishes you can return the NEW to get rid of the program without losing the code. Why? Well, the NEW command only changes a few bytes of memory and the rest of memory stays as it was. Although you need not delete the original program, the changes it has made in memory will still be there.

Similarly, after loading and running the second program the values are poked into memory and ready for the third program to screen when a loaded and run. The only way that the system can be utilised is by invoking the machine off between loads.

"The program looks alright when I check it with the listing but it still produces errors."

First re-read the instructions to make sure that there isn't something that you've forgotten to do. If that checks out OK there are several other areas where errors can creep in. Parts of the program within quotes (i.e. print and input statements) can be typed in exactly but all other parts of the program, although REM statements but variables and keywords bear close scrutiny.

If the error is syntactical make sure that you have the spelling right. Even simple errors like missed commas, misplaced colons, semicolons and omitted brackets can cause chaos. Check to see if all of the errors are actually in the number zero and not the letter 'O' and vice versa. The same applies to the number one (1) and the letter I. Don't mix up the two. An undefined variable such as PRINTAX is printed X where intended PRINT AX. Be careful though as the reverse can also be true. PRINTAX where you have two separate variables, A and X. Be careful, program listings are constructed in a way that usually makes use of extra spacing and indenting. This has the benefit of making the program listing more legible but it can also be very confusing, especially when the IR names are the factors. Check carefully. Diligent will repay you in

be deceptive so keep an eye open for this error.

Data lines can be by far the most likely area for mistakes. It's a long and tedious job to type in rows of figures, and errors often occur which are difficult to find. It is difficult to see if a listing has omitted items or a comma but the computer reads the value as a decimal and then data becomes one item short. The only solution is to examine the utmost care when typing in data. To spot data errors, write a short program which will read and point each data on the screen. Substituting a suitable value for x in the following short routine is the way that you would check the number of data items. The program should do the trick:

FOR ##0 TO x READ Y:PRINT Y:NEXT:END

For data which involves text change Y to Y$.

For data which involves text change the area, keep concentration by doing a few lines, testing and then tackling a few more rather than slogging through to the early hours. Always suspect your site program too because it has come away from working copies of the program (occasionally errors do creep in but rarely). It is strongly advise that CSE owners use the System Checker and various other useful high page carefully. Diligence will reap its own rewards with immediate success – remember, patience and you'll get there in the end.

Listings

Get it right first time with our deluxe program system for the C64.

You may have noticed that our listings are two of those horrible little black blobs which send you scurrying around the keyboard for a suitable graphic symbol. You may also have noticed the funny numbers by the side of each line of the listing. Fear not, it's all part of our easy entry aid.

Instead of those irksome graphics and rows of countless spaces in PRINT statements and strings we use a special coding system. The code, or mnemonic, is always contained in square brackets and you'll soon learn to decipher their meanings.

For example, [SA] would mean type in a Shifted A, or an use of spaces in layman's terms, and [SA8] would mean a row of ten of these symbols.

[S<,] would hold down the shift and press the comma key. Don't take a great leap of logic to realise that [C<] means exactly the same as pressing the Commodore key (bottom left of the keyboard) is held down instead of the shift key.

If more than two spaces appear in a statement then this will be printed as [SPC4] or, in the case of reverse spaces [RVSPC4]. Translated into English this means press the spacebar four times or to hold the shift and spacebar four times while you do it.

Colons are usually shown as [CTRL N, DOWN][LEFT,BLUE, F3,C3]

This would be achieved by holding

down the CTRL key as you press N, press the cursor key down twice, the cursor left key five times, press the key marked BLUE while holding down the CTRL key, press the F3 key and, finally hold the Commodore key down while pressing the number two key.G7 would of course make the computer beep twice.

Always remember that you should only have a row of graphics characters on your screen with no square brackets and no commas, unless something like this appears [SSQ,C7]

So this uses the two characters should have a comma between them.

On rare occasions [REV T] will appear in a listing. This is a delete symbol and is created by entering the big up this mnemonic. This type a closing quotation mark (SHIFT a 2) and delete it. This gets the computer into quote mode. Hold down CTRL and press the number nine key (RVSON), type the letter indicated or reversed T's and then hold down CTRL and press zero (RVSOFF). The symbol should now appear in quotation marks and delete it again. Now finish the line and delete the character in quotes (the space or letter) and the computer will not be concerned about it.

A list of these special cases it gives in the table but remember that only one of these mnemonics will appear outside of a PRINT string (the symbol for [c]. This may appear when the quote mode is needed in a calculation so this must be keyed in separately.

CC=[?][P]PR:

Ignore the square brackets and just type in a shifted upward pointing arrow (ie, the pi symbol).

By Eric Doyle

Checksum Program

The hexadecimal numbers appearing in a column to the left of the listing should not be typed in with the program. They are merely checksum values and are there to help you get each line right. Don't worry if you don't understand the hexadecimal system, as long as you can compare two characters on the screen with the corresponding two characters in the magazine you can run our free checksum program.

Type in the Checksum Program, make sure that you've not made any mistakes and save it to tape or disk

immediately because it will be used with most of the present and future listings appearing in Your Commodore.

At the start of each programming session, load Checksum and run it. The screen will turn brown with yellow characters and each time you type in a line and press the RETURN key a number will appear on the screen in white. This should be the same as the corresponding value in the magazine.

If the two values don't relate to one another, you've not typed the line exactly as printed so go back and check each character very carefully.

The final error simply correct it and

press RETURN again.

If you want to turn off the checksum simply type SYS49152 and the screen will return to the familiar blue colours. You can then do whatever it was you wanted to do and if this doesn't use the area where Checksum lies you can go back to it with the same SYS command.

No system is foolproof but the chances of two errors cancelling out Many of the listings are presented in lower case. To turn your computer to lower case, press and hold the Commodore key and the SHIFT key at the same time.

Mnemonic	Symbol	Keypress
[RIGHT]	CRSR	left/right
[LEFT]	SHIFT & CRSR	left/right
[DOWN]	CRSR	up/down
[UP]	SHIFT & CRSR	up/down
[F1]	f1 key	
[F2]	SHIFT & f1 key	
[F3]	f3 key	
[F4]	SHIFT & f3 key	
[F5]	f5 key	
[F6]	SHIFT & f5 key	
[F7]	f7 key	
[F8]	SHIFT & f7 key	
[HOME]	CLR/HOME	
[CLR]	SHIFT &	CLR/HOME
[RVSON]	CTRL & 9	
[RVSOFF]	CTRL & 0	

Mnemonic	Symbol	Keypress
[BLACK]	CTRL & 1	
[WHITE]	CTRL & 2	
[RED]	CTRL & 3	
[CYAN]	CTRL & 4	
[PURPLE]	CTRL & 5	
[GREEN]	CTRL & 6	
[BLUE]	CTRL & 7	
[YELLOW]	CTRL & 8	
[POUND]	£	
[ARROW]	↑	
[PI]	SHIFT & ↑	
[INST]	SHIFT & INST/DEL	
[Sletter]	SHIFT & letter	
[Cletter]	CBM & letter	

Listings

BYTING INTO THE 6510

```
;PRG-NAME: BYT TYPEWRITER          140
;FILENAME: TAPE LOAD               170
                                   180
                                   190
                                   200
10         ORG 50400               210
20                                 220
30 SCREENCOL EQU 253               230
40 SCREENROW EQU 254               240
50 TEXTFILE EQU $FFD5              250
60                                 260
70 SETIN    EQU $FFE4              270
80 SETOUT   EQU $FFE4              280
90                                 290
100                                300
110                                310
120                                320
130                                330
                                   340
                        ;OPEN CHANNELS FOR TAPE INPUT.
140                                350
                        LDA FILENAME
```

```
370 :                          1000 NOHIGH1   INC #SCREENCOL
380 :   RED EXIT                1010           BNE NOHIGH2
390 :                          1020           INC #SCREENCOL+1
400 ;REPRINT TEXTFILE ON SCREEN. 1030 NOHIGH2  LDA #TEXTFILE
410 ;INITIATE TEXTFILE          1040           STA PRINTLOOP
420 :                          1050           LDA #TEXTFILE
430          LDA #<SCREEN       1060           STA PRINTLOOP+1
440          STA <TEXTFILE      1070           BNE PRINTLOOP
450          LDA #>SCREEN       1080 :
460          STA >TEXTFILE      1090 :
470          LDA #<SCREEN       1100 ;FINISHED. WAIT FOR KEYPRESS.
480          STA <SCREENCOL     1110 :
490          LDA #>SCREEN       1120 FINISHED  JSR MAITKEY
500          STA >SCREENCOL     1130           BEQ WAITKEY
510 :                          1140 :
520 ;INITIATE SCREEN AND COLOUR VARS. 1150 ;AND EXIT BACK TO BASIC
530          LDA #<10H          1160 :
540          STA <SCREENMAP     1170           RTS
550          LDA #>10H          1180 :
560          STA >SCREENMAP     1190 :
570          LDA #<10H          1200 ;
580          STA <SCREENCOL     1210 FILENAME BYT 0,"TEXTFILE"
590          LDA #>10H
600          STA >SCREENCOL
610 :                          FN$-NAME  BYT TYPEWRITER
620 ;CLEAR THE SCREEN           FILENAME= PRINTER BOOT
630 :
640          JSR BE544          
650 :                          10 LDA #0000
660 ;SWITCH CHARACTER INTO      20 :
670 ;BUSINESS MODE.             30 TEXTFILE EQU 160
680 :                          40 :
690          LDA #14            50 SETNAM   EQU #FFD0
700          JSR BE716          60 SETLFO   EQU #FFA4
710 :                          70 SETLPS   EQU #FFBA
720 ;GET CHARACTER FROM TEXTFILE. 80 OPEN    EQU #FFC0
730 :                          90 CHKOUT   EQU #FFC9
740          LDY #0             100 CHRIN   EQU #FFCF
750 GETCHR   LDA ($FC),Y        110 CHROUT  EQU #FFD2
760 :                          120 CLOSE   EQU #FFC3
770 ;CONVERT ASCII INTO SCREEN CODE. 130 CLRCH  EQU #FFCC
780 :                          140 :
790          CMP #$100          150 ;OPEN OUTPUT CHANNEL TO PRINTER.
800          BCC SKIP           160 :
810          CMP #$5B    ;LOWER CASE 170 LDA #4
820          BCS SKIP    ;LOWER CASE 180 TAX
830          SEC                190 TAY
840          CMP #$41    ;LOWER CASE 200 JSR #FF55
850          BCC SKIP    ;LOWER CASE 210 :
860          SEC                220 LDA #0
870          SBC #$40           230 STA #FFBA
880 :                          240 :
890 ;PRINT CHARACTER ONTO SCREEN. 250 LDA #4
900 :                          260 JSR #FFC0
910 PRINT   STA (TEXTFILE),Y    270 :
920          LDA #1             280 LDX #4
930          STA (SCREENCOL),Y   290 JSR #FFC9
940 :                          300 :
950 ;ADVANCE TO NEXT PRINT POSITION. 310 ;INITIATE TEXTFILE
960 :                          320 :
970          INC <TEXTFILE      330 LDA #<10000
980 NOHIGH0  INC <SCREENCOL     340 STA #10000
990          INC <SCREENCOL     350 LDA #>TEXTFILE
1000 NOHIGH1 INC #SCREENCOL
```

```
340         LDA #>10000            160         JSR GETRAM
350         STA >TEXTFILE          170     ;
360     ;                          180         LDA #0
370     ;SEND CARRIAGE RETURN      190         LDX #1
380     ;                          200         LDY #1
390         JSR CR                 210         JSR SETLFS
400     ;                          220     ;
410     ;SEND TEXT BYTE BY BYTE TO 230     ;SET BEGINNING AND END OF SAVE.
420     ;PRINTER, INCLUDING CONTROL 240    ;
430     ;CHARACTER FOR BUSINESS MODE 250        LDA #>10000
440     ;                          260         STA >TEXTFILE
450         LDY #0                 270         LDA #<10000
460 PRINTLOOP LDA #17  ;LOWERC CHAR 280        STA <TEXTFILE
470         JSR PRINT              290         LDX #<11001
480     ;                          300         LDY #>11001
490         INC >TEXTFILE          310     ;
500         BNE PRINTLOOP          320         JSR SAVE
510     ;                          330     ;
520         LDA :TEXTFILE          340     ;SAVE TEXTFILE ENDS.
530 RUSH    LDA :TEXTFILE          350     ;
540         CMP #<11000            360     ;FINISHED: RETURN TO BASIC.
550         BNE PRINTLOOP          370     ;
560         LDA #>11000            380         RTS
570         BNE PRINTLOOP          390     ;
580     ;                          400 ;
590     ;SEND FINAL CARRIAGE RETURN 410 ;
600     ;                          420 PRG-NAME: BYT TYPEWRITER
610         JSR CR                 430 FILENAME: LOAD FILE
620     ;                          440 ;
630     ;FINISHED: CLOSE PRINTER   450 ;
640     ;                          460         ORG $10000
650         LDA #4                 470 SCREENMEM EQU 251
660         JSR CLOSE              480 SCREENCOL EQU 252
670     ;                          490 TEXTFILE  EQU 86
680     ;AND RETURN TO BASIC.      500 TEXTFILE BAD 188
690     ;                          510 ;
700         RTS                    520         GETIN EQU $FFE4
                                   530         GETNAM EQU $FFBD
PRG-NAME: BYT TYPEWRITER           540         SETLFS EQU $FFBA
FILENAME: TAPE SAVE                550         LOAD  EQU $FFD5
;                                  560         CLOSE EQU $FFC3
;                                  570 ;
10          ORG $10000             580 ;OPEN CHANNELS FOR DISK INPUT.
20      ;                          590 ;
30 SCREENMEM EQU 251               600         LDA FILENAME
40 SCREENCOL EQU 252               610         LDX #<FILENAME+1
50 ;                               620         LDY #>FILENAME+1
60 GETRAM EQU $FFD2                630         JSR SETNAM
70 SETNAM EQU $FFBD                640 ;
80 SAVE   EQU $FFD8                650         LDA #0
90 ;                               660         LDX #0
100 ;OPEN CHANNELS FOR OUTPUT TO TAPE SAVE 670   JSR SETLFS
110 ;                              680 ;
120         LDA FILENAME
130         LDX #<FILENAME+1
140         LDY #>FILENAME+1
150         JSR SETNAM
```

```
280  ;                                840  ;
290      JSR OPEN                     850  ;CONVERT ASCII INTO SCREEN CODE.
300      LDX #1                       860  ;
310      JSR CHKIN                    870       CMP #128
320  ;                                880       BCC SKIP
330  ;GET START ADDRESS FROM DISK.    890       CMP #160         ;UPPER CASE
340  ;                                900       BCC SKIP         ;LOWER CASE
350      JSR GETIN                    910       CMP #64
360      STA TEXTFILE                 920       BCC SKIP
370      JSR GETIN                    930  ;PRINT CHARACTER ONTO SCREEN.
380      STA TEXTFILE+1               940  ;
390  ;                                950  PRINT  STA (SCREENRAM),Y
400  ;GET DATA FROM DISK BYTE BY BYTE 960       INC SCREENRAM
410  ;AND STORE IN TEXTFILE.          970       BNE NOHIGH1
420  ;                                980       INC SCREENRAM+1
430  GETLOOP  JSR GETIN               990  NOHIGH1  INY
440      LDY #0                       1000 ;ADVANCE TO NEXT PRINT POSITION.
450      STA (TEXTFILE),Y             1010 ;
460      INC TEXTFILE                 1020      INC TEXTFILE
470      BNE NOHIGH                   1030      BNE NOHIGH2
480      INC TEXTFILE+1               1040      INC TEXTFILE+1
490  NOHIGH  LDA ST                   1050 NOHIGH2  DEC COUNTER
500      BEQ GETLOOP                  1060      BNE PRINTLOOP
510  ;                                1070      DEC COUNTER+1
520  ;CLOSE DISK INPUT CHANNELS.      1080      BNE PRINTLOOP
530  ;                                1090 ;
540      LDA #1                       1100 ;FINISHED: WAIT FOR KEYPRESS.
550      JSR CLOSE                    1110 ;
560      JSR CLRCHN                   1120 WAITKEY  JSR GETIN
570  ;                                1130      BEQ WAITKEY
580  ;REPOINT TEXTFILE ON SCREEN.     1140 ;
590  ;INITATE TEXTFILE.               1150 ;RETURN BACK TO BASIC.
600  ;                                1160 ;
610      LDA #<1024                   1170      RTS
620      STA TEXTFILE                 1180 ;
630      LDA #>1024                   1190 ;
640      STA TEXTFILE+1               1200      FILENAME  BYT 8,"TEXTFILE"
650  ;                                1210      FILENAME  SAVE FILE
660  ;INITIATE SCREEN AND COLOUR VARS.
670  ;
680      LDA #<1024
690      STA SCREENRAM
700      LDA #>1024
710      STA SCREENRAM+1
720  ;
730  ;CLEAR THE SCREEN.
740  ;
750      JSR $E544
760  ;
770  ;SWITCH CHARSET INTO
780  ;BUSINESS MODE.
790  ;
800      LDA #14                      10   OBH 05100
810      JSR $FFD2
820  ;                                30   SCREENRAM  EQU 251
                                      50   TEXTFILE   EQU 253
                                      70   COUNTER    EQU 255
     ;GET CHARACTER FROM TEXTFILE.    ;
     ;                                80   GETRAM  EQU $FFCF
     LDY #0                          90   CHROUT  EQU $FFD2
     PRINTLOOP LDA (TEXTFILE),Y
```

```
100  CHKOUT   EQU $FFC9          410       JSR CHKOUT
110  CHKOUT   EQU $FFC6          440
120  CHKIN    EQU $FFC6          450  ;SEND EACH BYTE TO THE DISKDRIVE.
130  CLRCH    EQU $FFCC          460
140  ;                          470  OUTLOOP  LDY #0
150  ;OPEN CHANNELS FOR OUTPUT TO DISK.  480       LDA (TEXTFILE),Y
160       LDA #8                 490       BEQ NOBOSH
170       LDX #FILENAME          500       JSR CHKOUT
180       LDY #FILENAME+1        510
190       JSR SETNAM             520  NOBOSH   LDA TEXTFILE
200  ;                          530       BNE OUTLOOP
210       LDA #3                 540       INC TEXTFILE+1
220       LDX #8                 550       LDA TEXTFILE+1
230       LDY #0                 560       BNE OUTLOOP
240       JSR SETLFS             570
250  ;                          580  ;FINISHED: CLOSE DISK CHANNELS.
260       JSR OPEN               590
270  ;                          600       LDA #3
280  ;NOW SAVE FILE BY SENDING EACH  610       JSR CLOSE
290  ;BYTE TO THE TEXTFILE TO THE    620       JSR CLRCH
300  ;DISKDRIVE.                640  ;RETURN TO BASIC.
310  ;                          700
320  ;INITIATE BEGINNING OF TEXTFILE. 720       RTS
330       LDA #<10000           730
340       STA TEXTFILE          740  ;FILENAME  BYT 8,"TEXTFILE"
350       LDA #>1000
360       STA TEXTFILE+1
```

MAY 1 INTERRUPT (PART 2)
(continued from May Issue)

```
PROGRAM: MAY 1 INTERRUPT(PART 2)
```

BASIC LISTER

```
***********************
*                     *
* PROGRAM: BASIC LISTER *
*                     *
***********************
```

3K RAM DISK

SECTOR EDITOR

EASY BASIC

PROGRAM: LOADER

PROGRAM: CODE

B R E A K

Bug Finder

We'd like to remind our readers that we run a Bug Finder service.

If you have typed in one of our programs and despite much checking, you still can't get it to run, then send us the following:

Two copies of your program on tape or disc.

A description of your problem.

If possible a listing of your work (you may omit bits).

A stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of the program to you.

Should any of the above be missing then we will not be able to deal with your query.

We will try to point out where you have made errors and place a corrected copy of the program back on your tape or disc and return it to you.

Do not send a program to us as soon as it stops working, please check it several times first.

We do get a large number of programs sent to us which don't work due to our own bad error reporting or misprints etc when being set for the magazine.

We also get a large number of programs belonging to programs published in Your Commodore.

Commodore Who Are You?

At the Your Commodore office we are repeatedly asked for the address and telephone number of Commodore U.K. Many people, after referring to their computer manuals, believe them to be based in Corby.

The Commodore place at Corby has closed down some time ago. Reproduced here you will find the correct address for Commodore U.K.

If you have any queries then the correct address in the front of your computers manual for future reference.

Commodore Business Machine (UK),
Commodore House,
The Switchback,
Gardner Road,
Maidenhead,
Berks SL6 7XA.

At the Your Commodore office we receive hundreds of letters from readers every month. We do try and answer each individually but sometimes this is impossible due to pressure of work. If you have written to us and not received a personal reply, please do not feel that we ignored your request or simply do not have enough time to reply to every individual letter but we do appreciate your comments and criticisms. We do receive, though, a considerable amount of queries relating to bugs in programs or letters really needing a personal reply and these we do our best to answer. If you do not receive a reply or a corrected program within a reasonable amount of time, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We will guarantee a reply, although this may still take time to reach you.

Puzzle Corner

An adventurer is returning home with his treasure, which is slightly oversized in that it consists of three monsters which he is hoping to sell to Ye Olde Wizard.

He comes to a river crossing with a small boat tied up and knows for the problem. The boat is only big enough to carry him and one of the monsters at a time.

This gives the adventurer a headache because the griffin will eat the troll, if he leaves them along together, and the troll will eat the hobbit.

How can the adventurer get to the other side of the river with his treasure still intact?

Designer Puzzle

We have decided not to continue the Designer listing as it significantly longer than we had originally thought. Don't worry though, the complete listing is available from us, free of charge. Simply send an A4 SAE to our Golden Square address on the Contents page. Or read, the complete program is available on disk - see the Software Sub pages. £21.

d these programs
e top ten!

BUSICALC 3

which be an investment, not
own the drain. We believe that
if you put into a program, the
y should get out of it, and that's
in writing with software from
SOFT.

... are listed on the right represent
traction from our range, but you
... full list if you phone or write to
... below. We offer an excellent
... service, and you can pay by
... Access, or Visa.

...SOFT, Winchester House,
...rg Road, Maidstone, Harrow,
..., Middlesex HA1 1SJ
...lephone 01 861 1166

For Commodore 64	
Micro Assembler	£17.50/ 19.95cl
Turbo Disk	14.95cl
Easy Your Driving Test	9.95
Music Master	£7.99/ 9.95cd
Interactive Pilot	17.99/ 19.99cd
Brainstorm	14.95/ 19.95cd
Word Perfect	14.99/ 16.99cd
Instant Recall	17.99/ 19.95cd
For Commodore 128	
Blitz Compiler	29.95cd
Blitz Compiler 128 Plus upgrade rom	19.95
Help Kit 128 cartridge	39.95c
For C16 and Plus/4	
Turbo 16	9.99c
Graphics Designer	6.95/ 8.95cd
Micro Assembler	12.99/ 14.99cd
Music Master	12.99/ 14.95cd
Word Perfect	12.99/ 14.99cl
For Commodore Pet	
Word Perfect	51.75c
Flex It to 2	87.75cl
Busicalc	44.69/ 47.15d
Busicalc 3	57.89/...
For Commodore Amiga	
MIDI for Amiga	49.75

YOUR
COMM

YOUR COMMODORE JUNE 1988

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 9

PLAYING WITH
DISKS
Which disk drive?

UNBEATABLE
PROGRAMS

* EASY BASIC
* C64 RAM DISK
* DIRECTORY EDITOR
* SECTOR EDITOR

WIN

Reviewed: Bar
Sherlock • S